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刀自身の姿が見えてしまう
類稀な鬼能の持ち主だった…！
修行時代の刀研ぎ職人奇談！

成川海は高校二年生。家業は刀鍛冶。
「僕は父親の仕事には向いてないんだ…」
そんな彼は人間の形をとった

第一話 かくしごと
自分は捨てられた、名刀の刀の茎に生まれた。
主人公は成川海は、友人をなくす。
何度も自殺を試みるが、高校生。
ひょっとの刀の精霊と出会い、
事件に巻き込まれていきます。
刀の精霊と出会ってください。

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KATANA（カタナ） 1

かまたきみこ

KATANA LAYERED SWORD Contents

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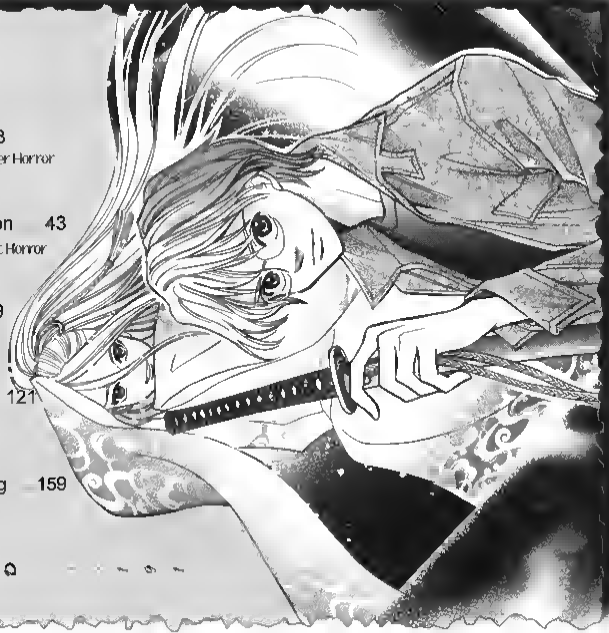
AFTERWORD



【第1話】鬼鑑(おにかがみ)

WE PRAY THAT BART ASHLEY'S SOUL ASCENDS TO HEA-VEN,
TO THE LORD'S TRAN-QUIL SIDE
AMEN

ASH-LEY-SAN...
YES
BECAUSE OF OLD AGE
...DIED RIGHT?
WHAT WILL BECOME OF US?
WE WILL BE FINE
SINCE OLD MAN ASHEY DEFINITELY WROTE IT ALL DOWN IN HIS WILL
OUR DESTI-NATION FROM NOW ON

YEAH, THANKS. THANKS.
YOU CAME?
IT WAS A NICE AND SOLEMN CEREMONY, WASN'T IT?
GRAND-MOTHER, I'M TALKING ABOUT GRANDFATHER'S STRANGE JAPANESE COLLECTION.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, JAMES?
MADAM, MY CONDO-LENCES ARE WITH YOU ON THIS DAY
WHAT'S YOUR JUDGE-MENT? CAN IT BE SOLD FOR A HIGH PRICE?
GETTING SOME QUICK CASH FOR THEM WOULD BE REFRESHING, RIGHT?
SINCE GRAND-FATHER DIED THOSE ANTIQUES ALL OVER THE HOUSE ARE JUST TAKING UP SPACE, RIGHT?

Hm
SIGH
HIS COLLECTION IS MUCH TOO ORIENTAL AND I DON'T LIKE IT
CORRECT
QUICK CASH?
YES, WELL
HOW MUCH CAN IT BE SOLD FOR?
FORTUNATELY I HAVE PERSONALLY BEEN SEARCHING FOR EXOTIC ITEMS
FOR AN EXHIBITION IN A PRIVATE MUSEUM NEARBY
IF YOU WERE TO LET US BUY THE COLLECTION OUTRIGHT,
WOULD THIS AMOUNT SUFFICE?

THIS IS THE CHECK FOR THE MONEY
YES, WELL THAT TRUCK
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED
THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF IT
I WAS HOPING FOR SOME HARD CASH NOW, BUT I GUESS WE'LL TAKE IT
Rustle
Rustle
WELL NOW,
CAN IT ARRIVE AT THE MUSEUM?
IN SUCCESSION
IN SUCCESSION

YOU DID SO MUCH FOR US!
FARE-WELL,
ASHLEY-SAN
!
ARE MY EYES MESSING WITH ME?
HUH?
URROOOOM

use blah blah blah
humans blah blah
Talking iron blah blah
CRAP, I'M LATE!
NO WAY
IT COULDN'T BE...
I PICKED PROFESSOR ZENBURG'S CLASS THINKING IT HAD TO DO WITH CONSTRUCTION
IN THIS WAY,
CHANGES IN IRON AND CULTURE GO BACK BEFORE
THE HITTITE EMPIRE IN 18TH CENTURY B.C.E.
AT THAT TIME THE FINEST QUALITY IRON SWORDS WERE BEING PRODUCED,
AND WERE EXCHANGED FOR LARGE AMOUNTS OF GOLD AND SILVER
TURNS OUT I'M TAKING A SWORD MANIAC PROFESSOR'S CLASS. WHAT A FAILURE.

THAT S A VIKING?
HOW UN-SIGHTLY
I'VE GOT REAL SWORDS THAT WERE USED BY NORTHERN VIKINGS!
WITH THAT, TAKE A LOOK AT MY PERSO-NAL COL-LECTION!
HUH?
shake
shake
AAAUH
HEY YOU!
CAN YOU SEE ME!?
OH NO!
I'M SOR-RY!
WHAT'S WRONG ? WERE YOU DOZING OFF?

AKIRA NARIKAWA, A JAPANESE EXCHANGE STUDENT TAKING MY CLASS.
IS THE SUCCESSOR OF A NOTED SWORDSMITH FAMILY WITH MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEAR TRADITION
IF YOU SPEAK OF THE ESSENCE OF STEEL WORKING ARTS AND WORKS OF ART, THEN EVERYONE PROBABLY KNOWS OF JAPANESE STEEL. RIGHT?
SPEAKING OF FINE QUALITY,
Scratch
Stare
I..
AM ABLE TO SEE THE TRUE FORM OF A SWORD
HUH?
HOW..
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT!?
I CAN'T MAKE A WHOLE SWORD.
I CAN'T DO MORE THAN SHARPENING.
YOU CAN PROBABLY MAKE A KATANA, RIGHT? WONDERFUL!
MY ONLINE FRIEND, A JAPANESE SWORD DEALER, INFORMED ME.
TWO-PERSON WORLD
I DON'T WANT TO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS!
THAT TERRIBLE JOB!
YOU CAN "SHARPEN", RIGHT?
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SO YOUNG,

T/L NOTE
*MEISTER MEANS MASTER CRAFTSMAN
IF YOU HAVE SUCH A TRADITION, DO YOU CARRY A JAPANESE SWORD?
AKIRA CAME FROM SUCH AN OLD MEISTER FAMILY
I'M AGAINST THAT
I HAD NO IDEA!
WHEN I WAS IN KINDERGARTEN, NO ONE WOULD COME NEAR MY HOUSE
ALL MY FRIENDS SAID THEY HATED SUCH A FORMAL HOUSEHOLD.
I CAN'T TELL THEM
I COULDN'T GET A GIRLFRIEND AND DIDN'T PLAY WITH FRIENDS
I PLAYED WITH SWORDS EVERYDAY
WH-AT'S WRO-NG?
THAT'S WHY I
I...

CHiiN
KAN
KIN
WHAT'S THE MATTER, LITTLE ONE?
YOU'RE BREATHING PRETTY HARD!
ha ha ha
SFX: *CLASH* *THUD*

HEY, PLEASE.
LEAVE HER OUT OF IT.
IS YOU?
THE ONLY NEW ADDITION LEFT...
HUFF
H-R
SFX: *KIN*
DON'T RUN AWAY!
AAH!
I WILL TEMPER YOU!
SFX: *SWISH*

SFX. "KIIN"
!
SFX. "GOGO"
PLEASE PAY NO HEED TO THIS ONE
WHAT
ARE YOU?
IF SHE COMES OUT, YOU'LL GET DAMAGED
.....
I DON'T WANT THIS ANYMORE!
I WANT TO GO BACK TO ASHLEY'S MANSION!

ASHLEY-SAN HAS DIED,
AND IT SEEMS WE WON'T RETURN TO JAPAN.
YOU HAVE TO ENDURE IT
YOU HAVE TO STAY CALM,
TRY NOT TO STAND OUT, HIDE YOUR PRESENCE, AND TRY TO AVOID HUMAN HANDS
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
OKAY

MEISTER NARIKAWA!
AKIRA, I FOUND YOU!
WHAT IS THE MATTER?
YOU'RE NOT VERY ENERGETIC
NOT REALLY
Rub
I KNEW IT. YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY BUSINESS
I GOT IT! YOU WANT TO TOUCH A KATANA, RIGHT?
NO, YOU'RE WRONG!
WELL, FINE
I HAVE A FRIEND WHO IS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF A MUSEUM THAT PURCHASED A LARGE COLLECTION OF JAPANESE SWORDS LAST MONTH

HEY, CURATOR, THANKS FOR THE INVITATION!
AFTER CLOSING HOURS, PLEASE SHOW ME THE NEW ADDITIONS
OH, PROFESSOR ZENBURG
OH.
WHEN IT COMES TO JAPANESE SWORDS, I THINK SHE IS DEFINITELY BETTER INFORMED
SONIA-SAN IS AN EXPERT ON WESTERN SWORD QUALITY BUT...
!
HE'S JAPA-NESE?
YEAH, HE'S THE SUCCESSOR OF A CRAFTSMAN FAMILY WITH MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEAR TRA-DITION
STONE

PROFESSOR ZENBURG,
CAN I HAVE A MOMENT?
AT ANY RATE HE'S MASTERED SHARPENING AT THAT YOUNG AGE, BUT...
OH, THE WAY THAT YOU'RE HOLDING THAT...
SHE HAS A LOT OF PRIDE...
Whisper
IT WILL HARM THE BLADE.
PLEASE DON'T MAKE HER MAD!
HMM...
JUST PULLING THE BLADE FROM THE SCABBARD WILL HARM THE SWORD.
PLEASE STOP!
WHAT?
AH!
That noise is real!
S
KREEE
EE
I KNOW THAT...

IT'S BECAUSE YOU KEEP COMPLAIN-ING!
DON'T POINT THE BLADE AT PEOPLE!
!
IT CAN'T BE...
HEY, THAT BOY—
CAN HE SEE US?
HIDE
MY NAME?
WHO IS HE!?
AKAGI—
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
MURA-MASA?

T/L NOTE *FAMOUS SWORDSMITHS
YOU KNOW ABOUT ME, TOO?
DEMON MIRROR...
WHY DOES HE KNOW THE MURAMASA AND AKAGI NAMES*?
DON'T COME OUT!
OH, WONDERFUL...
EVEN...?
THIS IS AN ANTIQUE
THE SCABBARD IS MADE WITH LEATHER HOW VERY DELICATE
DON'T TOUCH THE DEMON MIRROR.
LET GO OF IT.
AKIRA... WHAT'S WRONG?

THAT'S POINTLESS
HEHE HEHE
WHY?
A SWORD THAT CAN CUT LIKE THIS...
IS A WASTE IF IT'S NOT DRAWN CORRECT?
DON'T GO,
DEMON MIR-ROR!

Hehe.
Let us test this on you.
THAT'S A MYSTIC BLADE!
SHE CAN'T HEAR YOU!
THAT'S DANGEROUS!
SONIA,
HUH?
AT ANY RATE, RUN AWAY!!

SFX. "SWISH"
HA —
SWIPE
DUCK
EEK!
HEEY! OVER HERE!
HA!

A MIRROR THAT EXPOSES DEMONS!
IT'S REAL!
STORY FROM MY GRAND-FATHER, BUT
I HEARD IT AS A
SMA
SH
SLASH

AKIRA!!
We've been found!
AH!!
THAT APPRAISER, SONIA... IS STRONG
HUFF
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HEY, BOY
WAA!
YOU ARE JAPANESE AND IT IS A JAPANESE KATANA
IT'S YOUR DUTY TO DO SOMETHING
THIS IS A QUIET AND ELEGANT MUSEUM.
THAT DANGEROUS KATANA IS A PROBLEM

SHUT UP.
BAR-BAR-IAN.
DIS-SOLVE
THAT'S WHY I HATE IT
IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT THE FAMILY KATANA BUSINESS
GLARE
HEY, OVER HERE!!
STAB
AH!
IT'S ALWAYS COMPLI-CATED!!

OUR MASTER SUDDENLY DIED,
AND WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE WILL, THE FAMILY SOLD US
BY THE WAY, WHY IS THE DEMON MIRROR IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
AKIRA, RUN AWAY!!
HUH?
TO TAKE THE SWORD BACK, I NEED TO GET IT BACK IN THE SHEATH
YOU MAY USE ME
PLEASE, CALM THE DEMON MIRROR.
I'M BORROWING YOUR HAIRPIN!
SINK OR SWIM!!
I CAN'T SWORD-FIGHT...

PRO-FES-SOR!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
SLI CE
A replies
jump

SFX "SLAM"
Thud
THAT HURT!
SFX "KI"
OW OW...

DEMON MIRROR,
DID YOU FORGET ABOUT ME?
I KNOW YOU CAN'T SAY IT YOURSELF, BUT...
I'M AKIRA NARIKAWA!

MY HOUSE SHARPENED YOU!
WHEN YOU WERE IN JAPAN.
HUH?
?
OH!!
I REMEMBER, LITTLE AKIRA!
Little Akira,
are you not going to play with your friends again today?
Yeah no one wants to come to my house
They all say I am "creepy"
You Muneseme and Akeg too
That's why I don't have a girlfriend at kindergarten.
I'll be your girlfriend!
They say they can't see you
I tell them "I'm not playing!"

HAVE YOU RETURNED TO YOUR SENSES? IF SO...
LITTLE AKIRA!?
I'TS ME.
KYAAA!
TRY TO KEEP THE KATANA AT BAY, LIKE THIS.
LIKE THIS?
HUH?
You are so damn noisy!!

...NOT MOVING!
THE KATANA'S
UHH NN!

SFX: "STAB"
DUNK
SLIP
IT... CAME OUT!

I'M GLAD
HERE YOU GO, LITTLE AKIRA.
SLIP

WOW...
AKIRA.
PRO-FESSOR. CURATOR.
ARE YOU OKAY?
THUD
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN
IT'S ALL...
OVER.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THIS OLD SWORD WAS SHARPENED AT MY HOUSE IN JAPAN
THIS SWORD HAS A LEGEND
IT SEEMS TO BE CALLED THE "DEMON MIRROR KATANA" BY THE GENERALS OF THE NATION.
OH
FOR THOSE WHO POSSESS A LOYAL HEART TO THEIR MASTER. NOTHING WOULD CHANGE
ONCE. A RETAINER WAS FORCED TO SEIZE THE SWORD. AND THE DEMON DEEP IN HIS HEART COULD BE SEEN....
BUT THOSE WHO WERE SECRETLY PLANNING AGAINST THE MASTER WOULD SHOW THEIR INNER DEMON
SUDDENLY, THE CRAZY SWORD WOULD SWING AROUND
THEY SAY THAT THE CRAZED RETAINER WOULD BE ENDED AT THAT SPOT.
THE TRUTH IS, THE DREADFUL SWORD THEY CARRIED WAS A MYSTIC BLADE

I'M SORRY FOR THAT BLOODY SWORD...
ON THE SPOT...
KILLED
That's...
assure
HE HE.
AKIRA,
JUST WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU TALKING TO?
SORRY, SORRY
IF YOU SAY IT SO CLEARLY, AREN'T THEY GOING TO HATE ME?
Japan
AKIRA,
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THANKS FOR LISTENING TO MY SELFISH STORY
PUTTING A KATANA BACK INTO THE FIRE WILL LOWER ITS VALUE, RIGHT?
AH, BUT,
IF IT'S AN ACCIDENT, IT CAN'T BE HELPED
TOUCHING TO A PURIFYING FLAME FOR THE SECOND TIME,
TRY NOT TO MAKE ITS HEART GO CRAZY,
AND CALM THE KATANA'S HEART.
THAT IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT JOB FOR A SWORDSMITH
SINCE YOU WERE YOUNG,
YOU'VE HAD THE ABILITY TO CALM THE KATANA'S WICKEDNESS
WHAT?
AFTER YOU PLAYED WITH THE SWORDS WE GATHERED FROM CUSTOMERS,
FOR SOME REASON, THEY WOULD TURN KINDER.

I...
EVERY-ONE LOVED THEM
BUT THE SWORDS LITTLE AKIRA PLAYED WITH,
MAKE KATANAS KINDER

LET ME THINK ABOUT IT...
IF IT'S YOU, YOU CAN BECOME A GREAT SWORD-SMITH.
YOU GO RELENT-LESSLY FORGE THEM.

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Thanks for downloading Iskul trip Scans fourth release! It's all thanks to the staff who worked hard on it, so look at those amazing people in the credits page who made this a success! As an editor, I'm very disappointed with myself that I was not able to edit most of the SFXs, but forgive me for that as I'm really too busy with academic stuff right now, especially since our final exams are coming up and projects are appearing one after another. Well, enough of my rambling! Here goes the disclaimer...

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Iskul trip Scans is still looking for Japanese to English translators and experienced editors. If you're a new to Editing but wants to take a try, email me enigmascans@yahoo.com and I'll be able to teach you!

Iskul trip Staff

【第2話】曲線の誘惑

Wipe
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT KATANA, AKIRA?
YOU CAN RESTORE ITS' GOOD SHAPE RIGHT?
IT SEEMS HE WAS TAKEN TO A REALLY POOR SHARPENER.
THE NUMBER OF BANDS ARE IN DISARRAY AND THE BLADE HAS THINNED
Young Sir
Whoa...
can you sharpen me?
YEAH I UNDERSTAND BUT YOU'RE PRETTY RUSTED
WHEN DOES SCHOOL START?
AT 8
WELL... THEN PLEASE TRY YOUR BEST FOR THE NEXT TWO HOURS

I'M AKIRA NARIKAWA
I WAS BORN INTO A LEGENDARY SWORDSMITH FAMILY
MY GRAND-FATHER WAS A LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE. AND
MY FATHER SUCCEEDED HIM IN THE CRAFT OF SWORD-SMITHING
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO FOLLOW THEIR PATH BUT
ALL I CAN REMEMBER SINCE I WAS LITTLE WAS SHARPENING SWORDS
WHEN I GRADUATED MIDDLE SCHOOL, I WAS LEFT THE SHARPENING BUSINESS
HOW-EVER
I'M... VERY GRATEFUL ABOUT THE RUDE THING I DID EAR-LIER...
FOR SOME REASON EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE
I COULD SEE THE SHAPE OF THE SWORD'S BODY
EHE
YOU HAVE REALLY CLEANED YOUR-SELF UP.

TAKE CARE
HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY MASTER AKIRA
SO, I'M HEADING OUT, GRANDPA!
I NEED TO GO HOME AND FINISH MY HOMEWORK...
WELL,
THIS IS PASSABLE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL
IN KINDERGARTEN
"GOING TO AKIRA'S HOUSE TO PLAY IS DANGEROUS"
"BUT IF YOU MAKE HIM MAD, HE'S SCARY!!"
"THEY MAKE KATANAS AT HIS HOUSE!"
I CRAMMED AND ENTERED AN ACADEMIC TRACK SCHOOL AND IT'S CO-ED!!
MY LIFE HAS BEEN RESET! I'M OFF TO ENJOY MY YOUTH!!
Kyaaa!
I WAS ALWAYS TREATED STRANGELY, AND I WAS REALLY ASHAMED. BUT...
THERE WERE A LOT OF KIDS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD...

A GIRL-FRIEND, TOO!
I MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO GET
YOU IDIOTS ONLY SEE MATH AS A TOOL FOR YOUR TESTS
NONE OF YOU UNDERSTANDS THE BEAUTY OF NUMBERS IN LIFE.
数学
THE FORMULA IN (2) INDICATES A PARA-BOLA
YAMADA! TRY TO SOLVE THE QUESTION ON THE BLACK-BOARD.
WH-AAAAT?
K. COLLEGE EN-TRANCE EXAMS ARE IM-POS-SIBLE!
ALL YOUR EXISTENCES ARE INSIGNIFICANT COMPARED TO SIMPLE THEOREMS.
YOU'LL THINK IT'S FINE TO JUST CRAM THE NUMERICAL FORMULAS FOR THE SAKE OF A TEST.

THERE'S A SHADOW ON SENSEI'S CHEST?
HUH...
HMM
THAT'S A BLADE'S ENERGY.
DOES SENSEI HAVE A KNIFE HIDDEN ON HIM?
SO YOU KNOW KUDOU-SENSEI, RIGHT?
HE'S A REAL MATH NERD
YOU KNOW THOSE MATH QUESTION SOLVING SITES ON THE INTERNET?
WELL, APPARENTLY, KUDOU-SENSEI IS FAMOUS IN THE MATH NERD WORLD FOR SOLVING A BUNCH OF THOSE QUESTIONS USING THE SHORTEST ANSWERS
A KNIFE CARRYING MATH NERD?
SEEMS A LITTLE DANGEROUS
DING DONG~
THE TEST NEXT WEEK WILL COVER UP TO HERE
SEN-SEI

HEY TEACH I'M THINKING OF DOING MATH WHEN I GO TO COLLEGE
EVEN IN CRAM SCHOOL, I DID THE WHOLE UPPER LEVEL MATH BOOK
KYOZAKI... RIGHT?
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF POTENTIAL... DON'T YOU?
BUT... MATH WON'T HELP ME GET A JOB, RIGHT?
BECOMING A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER LIKE YOU AND TEACHING SIMPLE PARABOLIC EQUATIONS... WELL...
WHAAAT?
THIS GUY IS TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH A MATH MANIAC!
THAT'S HEADED NOWHERE RIGHT?
HEY TEACH, DO YOU THINK SOMEONE CAN GET RICH WITH MATH?
PLEASE TELL ME!
IS THAT WHY YOU REMEMBER MY NAME?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AGREEMENT...?
HUH?
RIGHT, NARIKAWA?
YOU THINK SO TOO, RIGHT?

EQUATIONS... ARE... BEAUTIFUL THINGS
THEIR BEAUTY... CAN'T BE FOUND AS A TOOL.
THIS DAMN KID...
THERE'S A KNIFE HIDDEN ON SENSEI'S CHEST
I KNEW IT
HEY, P E 'S STARTING, LET'S GO!
IF YOU CAN'T ANSWER NOW, IT'S OK
JUST THINK ABOUT WHETHER THERE'S A WAY TO GET RICH USING MATH
YEAH...
I'LL DEFINITE-LY GIVE YOU AN ANSWER
IT'S PROBABLY BAD TO MAKE HIM MAD
SWING STRAIGHT UP!
STRIKE STRAIGHT FOR-WARD!

I'VE BEEN TO THE NATIONAL MEET. MY ARMS ARE CRYING...
HMM?
TSUKAHARA-SENSEI,
THIS PE CLASS IS ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE MODERATE
TRULY WORTHLESS
A PE CLASS IN AN ACADEMIC TRACK CLASS IS...
WHAT THE...? WHY IS HE HOLDING IT LIKE THAT?
HUH?
NARIKAWA
NI...NARIKAWA?
THAT STANCE...
WHO TAUGHT YOU THAT STANCE?
You'll injure someone
HEY!
HUH?
HAH, LOOK!
I TOLD YOU IT'S WEIRD!

NARIKAWA-SENSEI, THE LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE!?
COULD IT BE THAT YOU ARE THE GRANDCHILD OF...
COME WITH ME FOR A MINUTE!
RUN
SOOO-OORY!!
This is my first time holding a samurai sword.
I HAD HEARD THAT A SON OF THE NARIKAWA HOUSEHOLD WAS IN MY SCHOOL, BUT...
HUH?
To be able to finally meet you
Where did you hear all that?
YOUR GRANDFATHER IS WHAT SWORD ENTHUSIASTS ASPIRE TO BE!
BUT...
MY GRANDFATHER AND I ARE DIFFERENT
IT'S SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF, RIGHT?
FOUNDED IN THE KAMAKURA ERA, THE KATANAS OF THE NARIKAWA HOUSEHOLD
WERE KNOWN FOR THEIR STRONG FORM AND GORGEOUS TEMPER PATTERNS
THEY WERE SOUGHT AFTER BY ALL THE ARISTOCRATIC FEUDAL LORDS

SENSEI! WHAT ARE WE DOING NEXT?
WELL, IT SEEMS YOU'VE GONE THROUGH A LOT.
I SEE
EVEN IF SWORD ENTHUSIASTS RESPECT ME,
MY CLASSMATES' PARENTS ALWAYS SAID THAT MY HOUSEHOLD WAS SCARY TO GET NEAR."
SO, IN HIGH SCHOOL, I WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS SIMPLY AS AKIRA NARIKAWA
DON'T WORRY! I'M ON YOUR SIDE!! YOU CAN TALK TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING!
You're also welcomed to join the Kendo club too!!
KUDOU-SENSEI, YOU'RE STILL WORKING?
YEAH, GRINDING... HOW'S THE KENDO CLUB?
GOOD, BUT THEY'RE STILL ROOKIES.

THAT NEW KID IN THE B GROUP... AKIRA NARIKAWA.
OH YEAH! YOU ALSO SAID THAT YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN JAPANESE SWORDS, RIGHT?
SINCE THIS IS AN ACADEMIC-TRACK SCHOOL, IT'S HARD TO GET THEM TO PRACTICE FOR A LONG TIME...
...AND THE STUDENTS ARE PRETTY UN-IN-TERES-TED.
AH... YESTERDAY...
DID YOU KNOW? HE'S THE HEIR TO THE FAMOUS NARIKAWA SWORDSMITH HOUSEHOLD!
HMM? NO WAY...
HIS GRANDPA WAS A SWORDSMITH ...SOME KIND OF NATIONAL LIVING TREASURE!
THE ONE WITH KYOZAKI
THAT TIMID BRAT?
ALSO, EVEN THOUGH HE'S YOUNG...
THERE'S A RUMOUR THAT HE'S A MASTER AT "SHAR-PENING."

DO YOU THINK THERE'S A WAY
TO GET RICH WITH MATH?
SFX: *GUSH*

DIRTYING THE WORLD OF MATH WITH YOUR MUDDY FEET...
AS A BRAT YOU JUST GET BY KNOWING THE GIST OF THINGS PRETTY WELL.
"MATH WON'T HELP ME GET A JOB RIGHT?"
"JUST THINK ABOUT A WAY TO GET RICH USING MATH."
SO YOU THINK MATH IS USELESS?
A BEAUTIFUL GEOMETRIC PARABOLA...
SLASH

WITH THIS BEAUTIFUL CURVE
AT LEAST TAKING CARE OF A CLEVER ONE LIKE YOU...
KYOZAKI...
WILL BE SIMPLE

HOLLOW ON THE INSIDE
BUT MUDDY ON THE OUTSIDE
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING

WHAT WAS THAT...
HM-MM...

WEREN'T YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS?
THE "RED DRAGON" JUST ARRIVED FROM THE MUSEUM
RED DRAGON!
AKIRA!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MAYBE I'M JUST TIRED
T/L NOTE THE SWORD'S NAME IS SEKI RYUU IN JAPANESE WHICH TRANSLATES TO "RED DRAGON
TESTS ARE GOOD! A MASTER CRAFTSMAN MUST HAMMER THEIR SKILLS INTO THEIR VERY SOULS.
DON'T YOU HAVE A TEST TO STUDY FOR?
SHOW ME!
IT'S COMPLETELY DECORATED ORNATELY WITH DRAGON PATTERNS
SINCE THIS WAS MADE TO BE A TREASURED SWORD...
THIS KATANA CAN EVEN SHATTER

PULL THE SWORD FROM THE HILT
THUNK
REMOVE THE HILT'S RIVET
EVEN THOUGH THE DRAGON ENGRAVING IS MASTERFUL SOMEHOW, IT'S CUTE.
IT DOES A CAREFUL JOB OF CONVEYING IT'S MAKER'S THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.
TO US A KATANA IS MORE LIKE A PAINTING OR A SCULPTURE
NORMAL PEOPLE CAN ONLY THINK OF A KATANA AS A TOOL FOR HARMING OTHERS.
I CAN'T THINK OF IT AS— IRON
WITH A METAL SKIN THIS SMOOTH

SFX "WAAA"
LICK
KA
PERO PERO
DID YOU SEE SOMETHING AGAIN?
SINCE IT'S DANGEROUS, AKIRA PLEASE PUT THE BLADE AWAY WHEN YOU GET SURPRISED
OH!
It started again!
WOULD YOU... TRY SHARPENING THIS KATANA?
WHA
Gero Gero
I KNEW YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE A SWORDSMITH
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!
AND, I'M GOING... TO BE A NORMAL SALARY MAN!

WHAT TO DO!?
IF SHARPENING IS GOING TO INTERFERE WITH YOUR STUDIES JUST QUIT SCHOOL!
HOWEVER, DON'T CUT CORNERS WHILE STUDYING FOR YOUR TEST
SO I'LL... SHARPEN RED DRAGON
HEH HEH HEH
HEH
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO A GOOD JOB...
FATHER, IT'S STILL TOO EARLY FOR AKIRA!
IT'S FINE!
AHUH
AHUH
HUH?
BUT... THIS IS AN IMPORTANT... CULTURAL ASSET...
I REALLY LOVE THE TIME WHEN I'M SHARPENING A KATANA
I DON'T WANT TO BE A SWORDSMITH BUT
Knock Knock
SFX "GA! GA!"

DO
UWA-AAA!
RED DRA-GON?
CRY
CRY
CRY
YOU MUST HAVE GOTTEN LONELY BEING IN A MUSEUM DISPLAY CASE
WITH NO ONE TO PET YOU
GORO GORO
WELL, I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED
Heave Ho!
YOU'RE JUST A REGULAR BABY
WHOA
GYUU

I WONDER WHAT THE SWORDSMITH THAT MADE THIS RED DRAGON BLADE WAS LIKE?
Snore
I'LL SHARPEN YOU IN THE MORNING
MORNING!
GOOD MORNING!
HUH
NARIKAWA!
TSUKAHARA-SENSEI
WAS IT SENT TO YOUR HOUSE TO BE SHARPENED?
THE PREFECTURAL MUSEUM'S RED DRAGON BLADE...
LET ME TAKE A PEEK AT IT! I'LL KEEP IT A SECRET FROM THE STUDENTS!
WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
Oh, come on!
THAT'S WAY TOO CONVENIENT, SENSEI.
I'LL BE DONE SHARPENING IT THE MORNING AFTER TOMORROW
YOU CAN COME THEN

LITTLE BY LITTLE... LITTLE BY LITTLE...
SO, IT'LL BE NECESSARY TO SHARPEN IT LIGHTLY.
I'LL DO THE FINISHING TOUCHES WITH A FINE WHETSTONE
IT'S BEEN SHARPENED SEVERAL HUNDRED TIMES,
AND THE ENGRAVINGS AND THE EDGE OF THE BLADE HAVE BEEN NATURALLY CARVED TOGETHER
WHEN SHARPENING SUCH AN OLD BLADE WITH ENGRAVINGS,
I HAVE TO USE A LOT OF CARE
EXCUSE ME! IT'S TSUIKAHARA!
IS AKIRA AT HOME?
Kyaa! Kyaa!
Okay
I EVEN TOLD THEM SENSE! WAS COMING THIS MORNING
WHERE DID EVERYBODY GO?
Silence
NO ONE'S ANSWERING THE DOOR?
HUH?

KUDOU-SENSEI?
ACTUALLY, KUDOU-SENSEI TOLD ME HE WOULD LOVE TO COME AS WELL
WE'VE TALKED ABOUT JAPANESE BLADES FOR A LONG TIME TOGETHER
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE
IT'S OKAY
HEY AKIRA, SHOW US THE BLADE!
SU
THIS IS
THE RED DRAGON BLADE

THE TREASURED 'RED DRAGON' SWORD...
HOW BEAUTIFUL
WHAT ELEGANT CURVES!
AH... I WANT IT!
DOKUN
TAN
WHAT'S WRONG, AKIRA?

RED DRAGON... WHERE DID IT GO?
THE PRESENCE VANISHED
WELL THEN, CHANGE AND COME ON!
WE'LL WAIT HERE
IT'S TIME I HAVE TO GET READY FOR SCHOOL
I DON'T SEE IT ANY-WHERE...
RED DRAGON!
!!
HUH? WHERE DID HE GO?
IS GONE!?
THE RED DRAGON...
TSUKA-HARA-SENSEI, WHERE'S KUDOU-SENSEI?
OH!

HE SURE IS WEIRD
HE SHOULD COME IN JUST A BIT...
TODAY'S FIRST PERIOD IS MATH, SO.
I DUNNO, BUT...
EH?
HAVE YOU SEEN KUDOU-SENSEI?
WHY DID YOU TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THE SWORD?
WHY WOULD KUDOU-SENSEI TAKE THE KATANA?
AKIRA, WAIT!
THEN WHERE'S THE SWORD?
I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET PEOPLE COME TO THE HOUSE!
AKI-RA...

THE STRONGEST CURVE...
NOW THE FUN...
BEGINS.
RED DRAGON!
RES-POND! YOU'RE STILL JUST A KID!
YOU'RE A KATANA THAT DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT GOOD OR EVIL!
RATTLE
KYO-ZAKI!
KYO-ZAKI,
COME TO THE FRONT!
I'M GOING TO ANSWER THAT QUES-TION YOU HAD!
KUDOU-SENSEI'S ... KINDA PISSED.
KYOZAKI, WHAT DID YOU DO?

SHA
WHAT'S UP, TEACH?
THIS IS ABOUT THE GET-RICH-QUICK TALK, RIGHT?
SLASH
RED DRAGON!
KYAAA

IT'S A CURVE, KYOZAKI
THE CURVE IS THE ANSWER.
I HATE... BEING LONELY.
FOR MAKING A FOOL OUT OF AN ADULT...
IT WOULD BE GOOD TO HAVE SOMEONE WITH ME... ALWAYS.
RED DRAGON!
OPEN YOUR EYES!
RED DRAGON, STOP!

ANOTHER PERSON I DISLIKE HAS COME
NARI-KAWA!
YOU KNOW HOW TO USE A SWORD, BUT WHY ARE YOU SO FEE-BLE?
IF YOU USE A SWORD, YOU CAN CONTROL PEOPLE, RIGHT?
YOU'RE MISTAKEN IF YOU THINK A HOLLOW PERSON
WITH NO CONFI-DENCE COULD WIELD A SWORD
AND BECOME STRONG
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
RED DRAGON, COME BACK HERE!
HE IS NOT YOUR MASTER!
WHERE ARE THE OTHER TEACH-ERS?!
WHAT IS NARIKAWA TALKING ABOUT?

IF YOU'RE AFRAID TRY SCREAMING
Su
HOW'S THAT?
IT SEEMS IT'S NECESSARY TO TEACH YOU AS WELL.
BE A GOOD KID. COME HERE.
OKAY
RED DRAGON, COME!!!
THIS WAY, TSUKAHARA-SENSEI!
IS A GENT'LE PERSON
THIS PERSON
I guess it can't be helped
KUDOU-SENSEI, WHAT

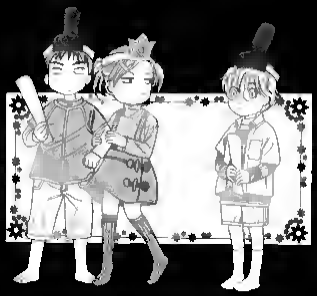
WHA...
THE SWORD REVERSED!

HUH
AKIRA, ARE YOU OKAY?
NARI-KAWA
KYAA!!
SEN-SEI!
NARIKAWA STABBED KUDOU-SENSEI!
I SAW IT, TOO!
WHAT?
HE'S A VICTIM, TOO.
WAIT A SEC
He didn't stab him

RED DRAGON WAS POSSESSED BY MAGIC AND CAME BACK TO ME...
whisper whisper
DID THEY FIND OUT WHO BROUGHT IT TO SCHOOL?
HE MAKES JAPANESE SWORDS AT HOME?
AND BROKE THE MAGIC INSIDE OF KUDOU-SENSEI
THE SWORD SWITCHED DIRECTIONS
IT SEEMS HE PRACTICED BY CUTTING THE NEIGHBOR'S LAUNDRY PRETTY DANGEROUS
HE WAS HIDING A TON OF KNIVES AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL
I'M GLAD, KUDOU-SENSEI WAS ARRESTED!
BUT WILL ANYONE UNDERSTAND?
NARIKAWA!
HUH? OH, THAT?
PEOPLE THINK I'M.. PRETTY DANGEROUS, TOO.
EH?
RE-LY?

YOU KNOW, I SAW THAT SWORD FLIP AROUND!
YOU'RE AMA-ZING!
TSUKA-HARA-SEN-SEI WAS IMPRESSED, TOO!
KYO-ZAKI
IF YOU HADN'T COME, I'D HAVE BEEN ALL CUT UP!
NARIKA, COME TO THE PRIN-CIPAL'S OFFICE
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.
THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF MISUNDER-STANDINGS...
I'LL GO, TOO!
SO DON'T WORRY!

Katana ch2/End



KATANA CHAPTER 2

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Thank you!

Iskultrip Staff

【第3話】雛刀（ひなだち）

LINE UP!
GET INTO PAIRS AND DO WARM-UP EXERCISES
HIGH SCHOOL LIFE IS BLUE
THAT WAS SCARY! KUDOU-SENSEI SWINGING THAT SWORD AROUND THE CLASSROOM.
YEAH AND THAT QUIET LOOKING NARIKAWA TOOK THAT SWORD BACK
A MISUNDERSTANDING.
YEAH, AND MADE HIM PASS OUT BY HITTING HIM WITH THE BACK OF THE SWORD
Yeah- scary!
Making him mad is scary

SINCE THEN... I KINDA FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN FLOATING BY.
YES!
NARI-KAWA, WHAT ARE YOU JUST STARING OFF FOR?
DIDN'T I SAY TO MAKE PAIRS!?
BECAUSE OF A JAPANESE SWORD ACCIDENT THAT HAPPENED IN THE CLASSROOM
THEN PAIR UP WITH NARI-KAWA!
KYO-ZAKI, IF YOU ARE BY YOUR-SELF,
KYO?
HUH?
THERE'S ANOTHER
AS FOR FLOATERS,
AH...
YEAH, YEAH
I GUESS I'VE GOT TO PAIR UP WITH YOU
THE JAPANESE SWORD INCIDENT STARTED WITH AN IMPERTINENT GUY... ITANAJI KYOZAKI

GOTTA GET A GIRLFRIEND BY DURING THIS MONTH
HUH?
NARI-KAWA, I.
YE-AH?
WHEN I COME TO SCHOOL THE ONLY ONE I HANG OUT WITH IS YOU
I'VE BEEN IN HIGH SCHOOL FOR ALMOST A YEAR
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "DURING THIS MONTH"?
A GIRL-FRIEND ISN'T AN OBJECT, SO
HMM?
SMART OR CUTE, ANY-THING IS FINE!
HEY, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!

HAZUKI
ERI
TAKING A BREAK FROM RE. AGAIN
HAZUKI?
SO THAT'S WHO YOU LIKE?
THAT'S NOT IT.
HAZUKI SITS IN THE SEAT IN FRONT OF ME, BUT,
HER BODY SEEMS PRETTY FRAIL,
SHE LEAVES A LOT, AND HER BACK
HER BACK?
HER BACK ALWAYS... SEEMS LIKE SHE'S LONELY
THAT'S RIGHT. DURING THAT TIME, TOO.
SHE'S NEVER SEEN CHATTING WITH ANYONE
I GUESS THERE ARE EVEN GIRLS...
WHO ARE JUST FLOATING BY...
I'VE DECIDED!

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY GUTS!?
HEY, YOU!
WH... WHY DID YOU DECIDE THAT!?
A rosy school life!
I'M GOING TO DATE HAZUKI!
I'LL CONFESS AFTER SCHOOL!
TARA—
DO IT NOW!
RUN A HUNDRED METERS WITH TEN HURDLES!
I DIDN'T GET HOME FROM CRAM SCHOOL UNTIL ONE IN THE MORNING!
AFTER-NOON CLASSES JUST DRAG ON WHEN YOU ARE TIRED
Boo!
Boo!
EH... I'M TIRED!
Don't say stuff like that.
KYO-zaki
GLARE
THERE ARE ALSO FLOATING TEACHERS.
THESE GUYS DON'T WANT TO BE A PIE FAN LIKE YOU!
It's no use.
PHYSICAL STRENGTH IS NECESSARY DURING YOUR GROWTH PERIOD FOR HEART AND LUNG FUNCTION!
Under-developed!
DING DONG
NARI-KAWA.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEXT SUNDAY?

THE SWORD-SMITHS FATHER AND SON, CALLED NARIKAWA KOZAN AND NARIKAWA KOJUN, ARE FAMOUS THROUGHOUT THE SWORD WORLD.
YOUR FATHER AND GRANDFATHER HAVE BEEN CALLED AS GUESTS, RIGHT?
SUN-DAY?
WELL, THERE'S A SWORD FESTI-VAL
I... HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT.
THE PE. TEACHER TSUKAHARA, IS A SWORD MANIAC
YOU HAVE NO POTEN-TIAL FOR ANYTHING EL-SE ANYWAY!
ISN'T IT A GOOD CHANCE FOR YOU TO DEBUT?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU'RE THE SON OF THE NARIKAWA FAMILY, RIGHT?
I THINK IT WOULD BE GOOD IF YOU CONTI-NUE IT
YOU'RE SO GOOD WITH A SWORD, SO,
You saved me too
WOW, SO YOU'RE GOING TO CONTINUE THE SWORD-SMITH TRA-DITION?
I'M NOT CONTI-NUING IT!
It's true!
Wonderful
AND TO BE ABLE TO SHARPEN AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE
THAT'S TOO BAD,

AF-
TER
SCH-
OOL
HAZUKI YOU WANNA GO OUT WITH ME?
He really said it
WHAT'S WITH THIS, SO SUD-DENLY
YOU'RE A GIRL WITH GOOD LOOKS AND SMARTS, BUT NO FRIENDS, RIGHT?
KYO ZAKI
THAT'S WHY NOT EVEN ABLE TO MAKE A BOYFRIEND IS PRETTY LONELY FOR A HIGH-SCHOOLER, RIGHT?
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
Whisper Whisper

HEY, WAIT!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE WORRIED ABOUT IT!?
WOW, HER LIMBS ARE LONG!
HEY, THAT'S HAZUKI FROM GROUP C!
KIND OF A CONDESCENDING FEEL EVEN THOUGH WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS
SHE'S A BEAUTY, ISN'T SHE? BUT SOMETHING IS... NOT RIGHT
OW!
Nurse's Office
HAZUKI, ARE YOU ... OKAY?
OW, OW, OW, OW, OW!

IT SEEMS THAT THE PAIN HAS SUBSIDED, BUT...
COULD YOU BOYS TAKE HER HOME?
THIS IS...
HAZUKI'S HOUSE...?
WON'T YOU COME IN?
WOW!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
THIS IS THE RECEIVING ROOM
PLEASE WAIT HERE AND I'LL BE BACK
WELCOME! ERI IS CHANGING CLOTHES AND SHE'LL BE BACK SOON
WOULD YOU HAVE SOME TEA?
ARE YOU HER... HER SISTER?

SHOCK...
I WOULD MAKE THE CHAUFFEUR PICK HER UP AT SCHOOL, BUT...
TEEHEE, I'M ERI'S MOTHER.
I'M SORRY, HER BODY HAS BEEN FRAIL SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD.
MORE IMPORTANTLY THIS HOUSE HAS SOME KIND OF HEAVY ATMOSPHERE.
I WONDER IF THIS HOUSE HAS A HISTORY?
NO. A MUCH MORE EVIL SPIRITED FEELING.
Ochh
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ERI'S CLASSMATES HAVE COME TO VISIT!
COME OVER AND PLAY ANYTIME YOU LIKE
WOW, HAZUKI'S FAMILY CONTINUES TO SURPRISE ME
You don't sense any thing?
Sorry
MUNCH MUNCH
If... it's... okay...
If... it's... okay... with ... you.
Plea...
s...
e...
whisper whisper

If it's okay with you.
WAA!
AKIRA ? WHAT'S WRONG?
Yo...s ...
CUT IT OUT
If it's you...
You are... good.
If you could sharpen ...
It would be good...

IT'S A BIT OF A PROBLEM
I CAN SEE THE CHARACTERS OF THE HEART DWELLING WITHIN THE BLADE.
BECAUSE I WAS RAISED IN A SWORD-SMITH HOUSE.
THERE ARE KATANA SPIR- IT'S ... IN THIS HOUSE?
WOOSH
REPEL!
IT'S AN IDIOSYNCRACY!
Creak...
AKIRA ?
NARI- KAWA ... WHAT ARE YOU DO- ING?
HUH?

HAIZUKI, YOUR OWN CLOTHES ARE CUTER ON YOU!
KYOZAKI... YOU...
DON'T STRIKE ME AS BOYS.
SHOCK!
HOW SHOULD I SAY IT...
YOU TWO...
YOUR CONFESSION TODAY WAS GOOD, YOUR LINES NOW ARE... YOU, YOU ARE JUST LIKE... AN ITALIAN!
AS A MAN, I SHOULD SHOW RESPECT.
THAT'S WHY I LET YOU IN MY HOUSE
COME HERE,
I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING GOOD
HEY, I CONFESSED LIKE A MAN!
WHY DON'T I STRIKE YOU AS ONE!?
ACTUALLY, I HATE...
REAL MEN

RAT
TLE
WHAT'S
THAT?

UWA!
WHAT'S THIS HUGE DOLL STAND?
AMA-ZING!
THE CRAFTSMAN-SHIP ON THE DOLLS... AND THE TOOLS ARE AMAZING!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE LIKE THIS!
HMM?

T/L NOTE
A DOLL STAND IS A TIERED DAIS WITH A NUMBER OF DOLLS AND ACCOMPANYING ITEMS DISPLAYED DURING THE "GIRL'S FESTIVAL".

T/L NOTE THE EDO PERIOD BEGAN IN 1603 AND ENDED IN 1868

WHY IS THERE A KATANA...
...IN THE CENTER?
THIS IS A DOLL STAND MADE DURING THE EDO PERIOD*
A HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL LORD GATHERED THE FINEST CRAFTSMEN TO CREATE IT FOR HIS DAUGHTER.
HAZUKI...
WHICH?
THIS... THIS TINY SWORD
MAY I TAKE THIS OUT?
THE TOOLS WERE MADE BY A REAL CARPENTER
THE DOLL'S CLOTHING WAS STITCHED BY A NOBLE FAMILY'S CLOTHIER AND WERE MADE TO FIT EACH DOLL
IT CAN CUT!?
IT'S FINE, BUT IT CAN CUT, SO BE CAREFUL
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE ALL SMALL, BUT THEY ARE ALL THE REAL THING

UNBELIEVABLE! EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO SMALL AND THIN,
IT'S THE REAL THING!
THE TEMPER PATTERN IS A DISORDERED CLOVE THE RIDGES AND TIP... ARE BOTH PERFECTLY HONED
POINT OF SWORD
TEMPER PATTERN
RIDGES
WHAT'S THIS TEMPER PATTERN STUFF?
Seems interesting.
THEY'RE THE NAMES OF THE IMPORTANT PARTS OF A JAPANESE SWORD
DISORDERED CLOVE IS THE STYLE OF WAVE PATTERN THIS BLADE HAS
DISORDERED CLOVE? RIDGES?
BUT IT COULD USE SOME SERIOUS MAINTENANCE
T/L NOTES:
SHINOGI = RIDGES
HAMON = TEMPER PATTERNS
KISSAKI = POINT OF SWORD

NARIKAWA, ARE YOU A SWORD MANIAC?
DO YOU USUALLY WALK AROUND WITH A KNIFE OR SOMETHING?
IT'S AN AMAZING WORK OF ART!
THIS IS A REAL SWORD MADE BY A REAL SWORDSMITH
IF IT HAS THIS, THEN IT WASN'T MADE BY A DOLLSMITH
DON'T TELL HER THAT!
HUH?
IT'S TRUE!
EVEN AT THIS AGE, HE'S A CRAFTSMAN! HE CAN HELP WITH SHARPENING
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG
AKIRA IS A THOROUGHBRED FROM A FAMOUS SWORDSMITH FAMILY
How regrettable...

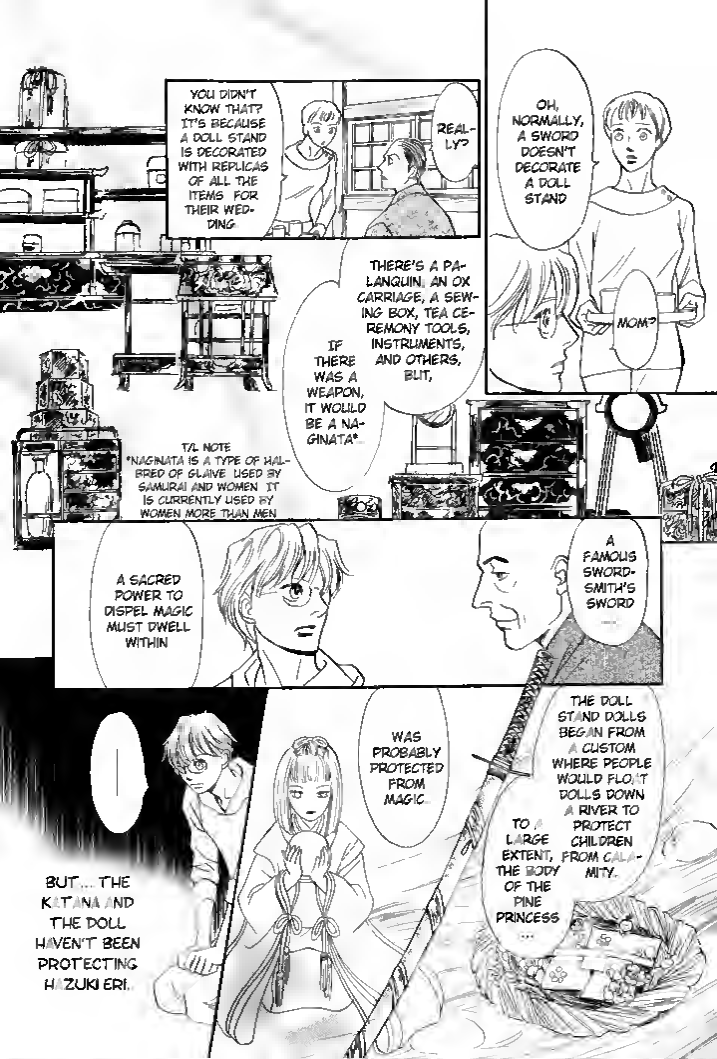
If it's you,
It would be good.
WHAT'S WRONG, HAZUKI?
Kathie
HAZUKI?
Ohh!
AGH!
If only you would sharpen us!
How regrettable!
WAH!
WAIT!

I SAID WE NEED TO POLISH THE DOLLS' SWORDS AND THE STORAGE SWORD.
MOM,
OPEN
ERI, WHERE ARE YOU?
ERI!
UNCLE OKAWA WILL BE COMING TO STAY WITH US TOMORROW.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO ASK UNCLE BACK!
BUT... HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEE YOUR FACE
WHY DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
OH THAT? I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE MISTAKEN
IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO SHARPEN YOUR SWORDS, I CAN INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE
Is there some kind of trouble?
WE'RE RELATIVES, BUT IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THAT
HE'S A LITTLE YOUNG, BUT...
ERI!!

I UNDERSTAND, I UNDERSTAND
SO... LET GO OF MY NECK.
IT'S BECAUSE THE BLADE HAS BECOME CLOUDY
YOU WANT TO SAY THE DAUGHTER OF THIS HOUSE HAS HAD A HARD TIME.
How pitiful!
This afterlife... please sharpen this doll's sword!
Rattle
How regrettable!
Ah!
NARIKAWA...
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT THE SWORD AND TALKING TO YOURSELF?
WEIRD.

HAZUKI... ARE YOU HAVING SOME KIND OF PROBLEM?
UMM... WELL,
THIS IS BETWEEN US
PLEASE... DON'T TELL ANYONE
DID DIRTY THINGS...
TO ME...
THE UNCLE... COMING TO POLISH THE SWORD...
MOTHER WON'T BELIEVE ME, EITHER
TOMORROW... THAT PERSON IS COMING HERE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

"HELP ME, NARIKAWA."
I'M HOME...
OH, THIS IS THE FAMOUS DOLL SWORD FROM THE HAZUKI HOUSE.
HAZUKI... DIDN'T HER FAMILY USED TO BE FEUDAL LORDS?
ISN'T THIS A VALUABLE FAMILY TREASURE?
I WANTED TO STUDY IT, SO SHE LOANED IT TO ME.
I WANT TO KNOW WHY SUCH A SMALL SWORD WAS MADE.
IT SHOULD CERTAINLY APPEAR IN THE "JAPANESE SWORD NOTES"
AH THIS IS IT. THE STORY OF THE HAZUKI HOUSEHOLD.
IT SEEMS IT WAS BOUGHT FROM ANOTHER JEALOUS FEUDAL LORD.
THE FEUDAL LORD, MUNEMITSU, WAS A WELL-LIKED, WARM, AND DEVOTED SHOGUN DURING THE ANSEI ERA*.
T/L NOTE: *ANSEI ERA: 1854-1860
INSIDE WAS A CURSED FEUDAL LORD WHO WAS TO KILL THE LONE PINE PRINCESS
MUNEMITSU WAS WORRIED FOR THE SICKLY PINE PRINCESS.
SO HE HAD A SPECIAL DOLL AND SWORD MADE TO PROTECT HER.


YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT? IT'S BECAUSE A DOLL STAND IS DECORATED WITH REPLICAS OF ALL THE ITEMS FOR THEIR WEDDING
REALLY?
OH, NORMALLY, A SWORD DOESN'T DECORATE A DOLL STAND
MOM?
THERE'S A PALANQUIN, AN OX CARRIAGE, A SEWING BOX, TEA CEREMONY TOOLS, INSTRUMENTS, AND OTHERS, BUT,
IF THERE WAS A WEAPON, IT WOULD BE A NAGINATA*.
T/L NOTE *NAGINATA IS A TYPE OF HALBRED OF GLAIVE USED BY SAMURAI AND WOMEN. IT IS CURRENTLY USED BY WOMEN MORE THAN MEN
A SACRED POWER TO DISPEL MAGIC MUST DWELL WITHIN
A FAMOUS SWORDSMITH'S SWORD
...
THE DOLL STAND DOLLS BEGAN FROM A CUSTOM WHERE PEOPLE WOULD FLOAT DOLLS DOWN A RIVER TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM CALAMITY.
TO A LARGE EXTENT, THE BODY OF THE PINE PRINCESS ...
WAS PROBABLY PROTECTED FROM MAGIC.
BUT... THE KATANA AND THE DOLL HAVEN'T BEEN PROTECTING HAZUKI ERI.

EVEN OUR CLASSMATES TREAT HER CRUELLY.
I KNOW I TOLD HAZUKI I WAS ONLY BORROWING IT, BUT
I KNEW IT. THE ONLY OPTION IS TO SHARPEN IT
WITH A DIVING POWER THAT DISPELS MAGIC DWELLING WITHIN IT
A CRAFTSMAN'S SWORD
DEFINITELY.
THE FEMALE DOLL WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THIS KIND OF LIFE OR DEATH REQUEST.
THIS DOLL SWORD DEFINITELY
IS THE KEY TO PROTECTING HAZUKI
Please sharpen me!
DID I TELL NARIKAWA ABOUT THAT?
EVEN THOUGH THE WHOLE CLASS WILL PROBABLY FIND OUT.
WHY...

KYA!
UNCLE YOU COME HERE EVERY YEAR TO POLISH THE SWORD RIGHT?
OH, COME OVER HERE
YOU SURE HAVE BECOME PRETTY
ERI,
I'M NOT THINKING OF DISGUSTING THINGS!
YOU IDIOT!
STOP IT!
ERI
ERI
IT WOULD BE NICE TO JUST TOUCH
IF YOU SCREAM, I'LL HIT YOU
STOP!
I LOANED YOUR FATHER MONEY!

HAZUKI...
SINCE I CAN'T BRING THE DOLL TO SCHOOL,
I'LL RUN HOME AND GET IT AND BRING IT TO YOU.
SO, YOU GO HOME FIRST WITH KYOZAKI.
WE'LL THINK OF WHAT TO DO TOGETHER.
ERI HASN'T RETURNED YET?
SHE SHOULD BE HOME SOON
KAKAI
I BET ERI HAS BECOME A BEAUTY
BY THE WAY, ABOUT THE 20 MILLION YEN I LOANED KATSUSHI...
BROTHER
SOMETIME THIS YEAR WE MAY BE ABLE TO
THE MEN IN THE HAZUKI FAMILY HAVE A RESPECTED TRADITION OF HAVING
SUPERBLY BEAUTIFUL PRODUCTS, AND EAGLE-LIKE GUTSINESS

T/L NOTE: 20 MILLION YEN = ROUGHLY 200,000 USD.

Yes...
Ye
Emperor Doll... how regretful
WHAT HAPPENED...
TO THE DOLL STAND SWORD?
OH,
DOLL SWORD
"IT'S EASIER TO MOVE
O...OH THAT'S RIGHT...IF IT ISN'T THERE...
IT'S SOMEONE WE CAN TRUST
THAT REMINDS ME...ERI LENT IT TO A FRIEND
OH,
THIS IS BAD.
I HAVE TO HURRY!
HURRY! THIS SWORD...
EVIL SPIRIT... IF THE DOLL SWORD DOESN'T HAVE IT, THEN GOODNESS WILL BE AMPLIFIED.

T/L NOTE: DONO IS A HONORIFIC TITLES USED TO ADDRESS SAMURAIS AND NOBILITY

THEY SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN STRONGER SINCE JOINING A CLUB!
MY LEGS CRAMPING...
SFX: DAN!
KYOZAKI!
grab
AGHH!!
BANG BANG BANG BANG
HURRY!
HURRY, OPEN UP!
I HATE THE HAZUKI FAMILY!
SINCE... YOU ARE ... THE WEAKEST,
I'LL DESTROY YOU!

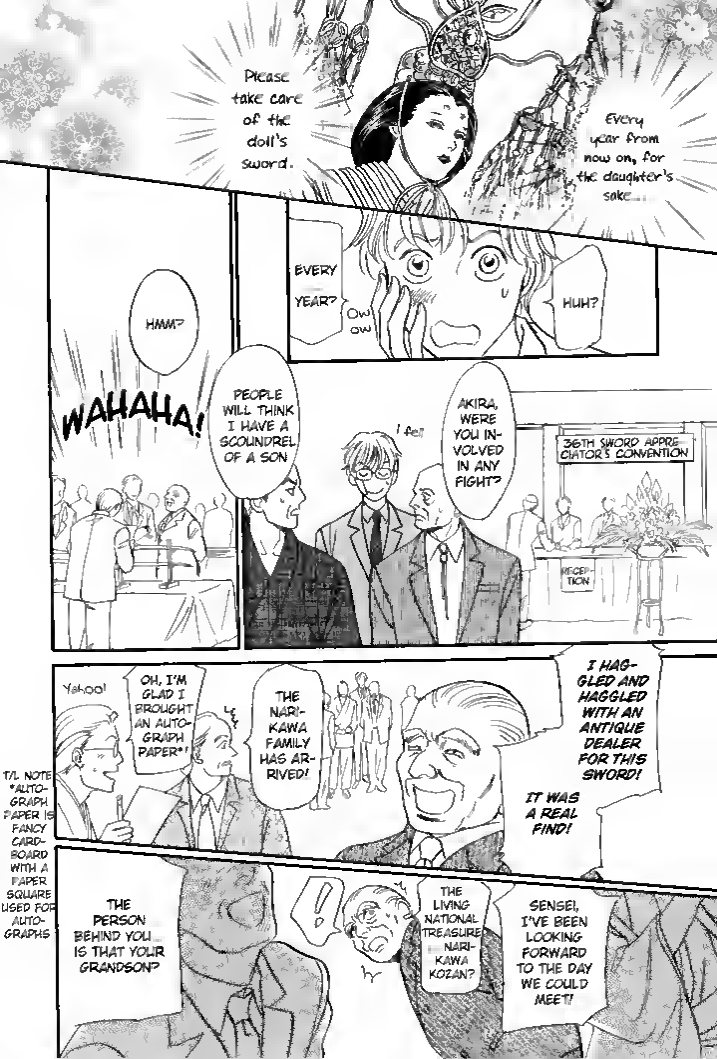
MOM,
HELP ME!
ERI!!
SHUTSU
MY... BRO-THER?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW
JU... JUST LIKE YOU SAID, IT'S SHARPENED!
UUUHH!

HAND OVER THE SWORD!
SFX: GA
NARI-KAWA!
BROTHER, STOP!
The doll's sword... has been finely polished.
Our power has also been revived!

Every-one, arise!
I'll take this, Akira-dono!
Because of the sword's malice,
We couldn't protect the daughter from the jealousy towards the Hazuki family and obstructive thoughts

The evil spirit harming the current daughter...
will be torn apart!
SFX: **THUD**

It's finished!
SFX: KATSU!
NARIKAWA!
HUH? THE DOLL RETURNED?
THE AIR HAS LIGHTENED
!
I'M SORRY, ALL OF THIS IS BECAUSE OF ME!
A GOOD FEELING.
THE MALICIOUSNESS IS DEFEATED
I'M SORRY ...ERI!
Oh Akira!!
Ow ow


Please take care of the doll's sword.
Every year from now on, for the daughter's sake...
HUH?
Ow ow
EVERY YEAR?
HMM?
WAHAHA!
PEOPLE WILL THINK I HAVE A SCOUNDREL OF A SON
I Ael
AKIRA, WERE YOU INVOLVED IN ANY FIGHT?
36TH SWORD APPRECIATOR'S CONVENTION
RECEPTION
Yahoo!
OH, I'M GLAD I BROUGHT AN AUTOGRAPH PAPER*!
THE NARIKAWA FAMILY HAS ARRIVED!
I HAGGLED AND HAGGLED WITH AN ANTIQUE DEALER FOR THIS SWORD!
IT WAS A REAL FIND!
THE PERSON BEHIND YOU IS THAT YOUR GRANDSON?
THE LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE NARIKAWA KOZAN?
SENSEI, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY WE COULD MEET!

T/L NOTE *AUTOGRAPH PAPER IS FANCY CARDBOARD WITH A PAPER SQUARE USED FOR AUTOGRAPHS

Narikawa Sensei
Ahh
IT SURE HAS SOME FLASHY ENGRAVINGS
OH!
OH! THE EDO PERIOD'S ARTIST, NAGASONE KOTETSU'S WORK WELL, WELL
WHAT DO YOU THINK AKIRA?
THE ONE I HIT... WAS THE NARIKAWA FAMILY'S...
STARE
GRAND-CHILD!?
THE HIGH SCHOOLER FROM THEN!
Stare...
We're from the early Shouwan period*
Yup yup it's a fake
WELL, FIRST IT'S NOT OLD.
T/L NOTE: *SHOUWA 1926-1989
UWA!!!
I can never show my face in the sword world again!
YOU WERE TRICKED BY THIS ANTIQUE DEALER YOU GOT IT FROM
THAT'S RIGHT
POST-WAR ENGRAVINGS WERE NOT PUT ON A PRE-WAR KATANA
Kozuka's gimmick...

BUT WE SAID IT'S A SECRET!
WE CAN'T ALLOW THAT!
WH-AT?
I WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT MY BROTHER DID TO AKIRA.
NARIKAWA-SENSEI!
MY NAME IS HAZUKI
I'm so envious!
They were sharpened by Akira-dono?
Why didn't you talk to your family?
I HEARD THE STORY.
AKIRA!
AKIRA,
I WASN'T ALLOWED TO SHARPEN THEM.
THE HAZUKI FAMILY'S SWORDS --?
I'm so jealous of that doll's sword!
FROM NOW ON,
COULD YOU TAKE CARE OF OUR SWORDS?

YEAH,
IT'S OKAY WITH ME
WITH THAT I CAN MAKE A FRIEND'S LIFE EASIER
Yeah! Akira-dono!
Alright!
Dad you spoil him
Seems like he saw something again
A DATE, OUR FIRST DATE!
HAZUKI!
LET'S GO SEE A MOVIE THIS SUNDAY!
HAZUKI, WERE YOU WAITING LONG?
LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER

I FIGURED... THAT SWORD WAS HAZUKI'S SAFEGUARD.
AN INSTANT EFFECT?
AKIRA.
KYAA
SORRY, I HAVE A BOYFRIEND.
I WONDER IF THIS IS ALSO THANKS TO NARIKAWA SHARPENING THAT SWORD?
LATER!
IF SHE'S HAPPY...
IT... IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
EXCESSIVE...
Come every year and protect the doll's sword and me.
Narikawa... Akira, let's be friends.
Since you are a very special person
Katana Ch3/End

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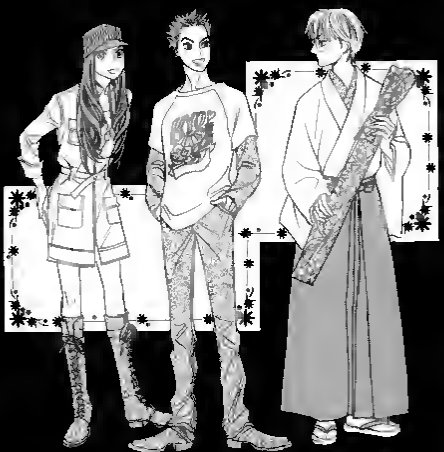
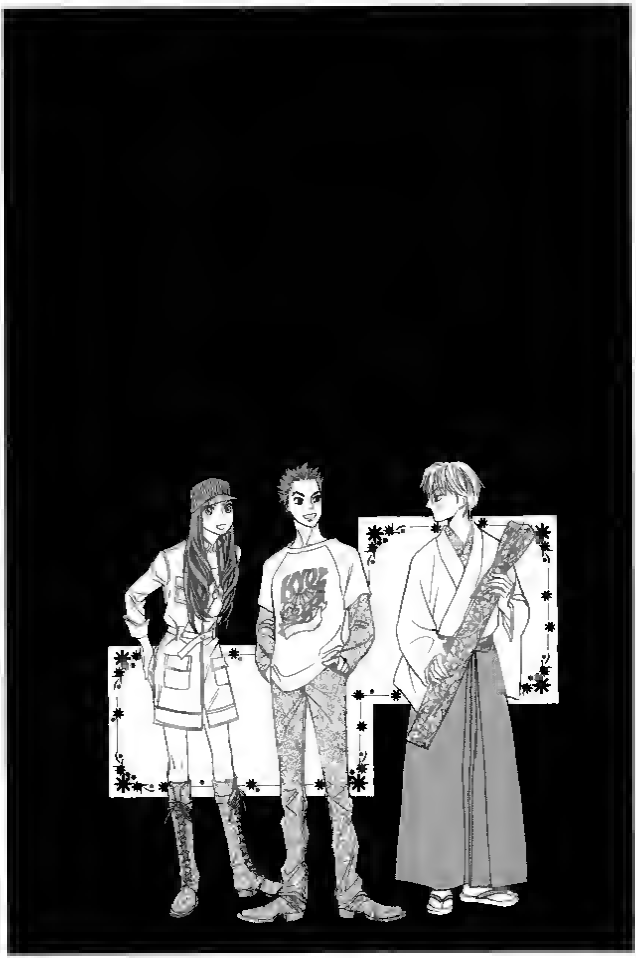


【第4話】襲刀（かさねがたな）



It's morning, Akira.
Boy
Hurry and wake up
Please play with us
Impatient
Excite

YAA-AWN
WHAT TIME IS IT?
It's seven and a half of dawn
Hurry, you must wake up!
DON'T TELL ME IT'S TWELVE
Uuh, seven and a half means...
HMMM. A M...
My head hasn't woken up yet.
5:30!
AH, MORNING
GOOD MORNING, FATHER.
LET ME SLEEP A LITTLE MORE!
WAKE ME UP TWO HOURS BEFORE THE MOCK EXAM!
BOY!
PAPA, DID YOU SEE AKIRA?
NOPE
HE ISN'T IN HIS ROOM, EITHER, AND HE HASN'T EATEN HIS BREAKFAST!
WELL, IF I KNOW AKIRA
HE'S PROBABLY IN THE WORKSHOP

BOY!
PAGES CAN BE PRETTY CARE-LESS.
When you're finished with him, would you please inspect me, Toragiku? Please, my back is scra-tchy!
WAHAHA!
Here, here.
150 years ago, Osagawara's page took me out and dropped me, thus, damaging me.
Wai! Wai!
HERE HE IS
Slide
OH...
SHOCK
AKIRA
IT-CHY?
TORAGIKU SAID HE'S "ITCHY" HIS BACK? THE MUNE? WHERE IS IT?
MAYBE THERE'S SOME RUST?

T/L-NOTE: MUNE (IS) THE BACK SIDE OF A SWORD, SO I USED "BACK."

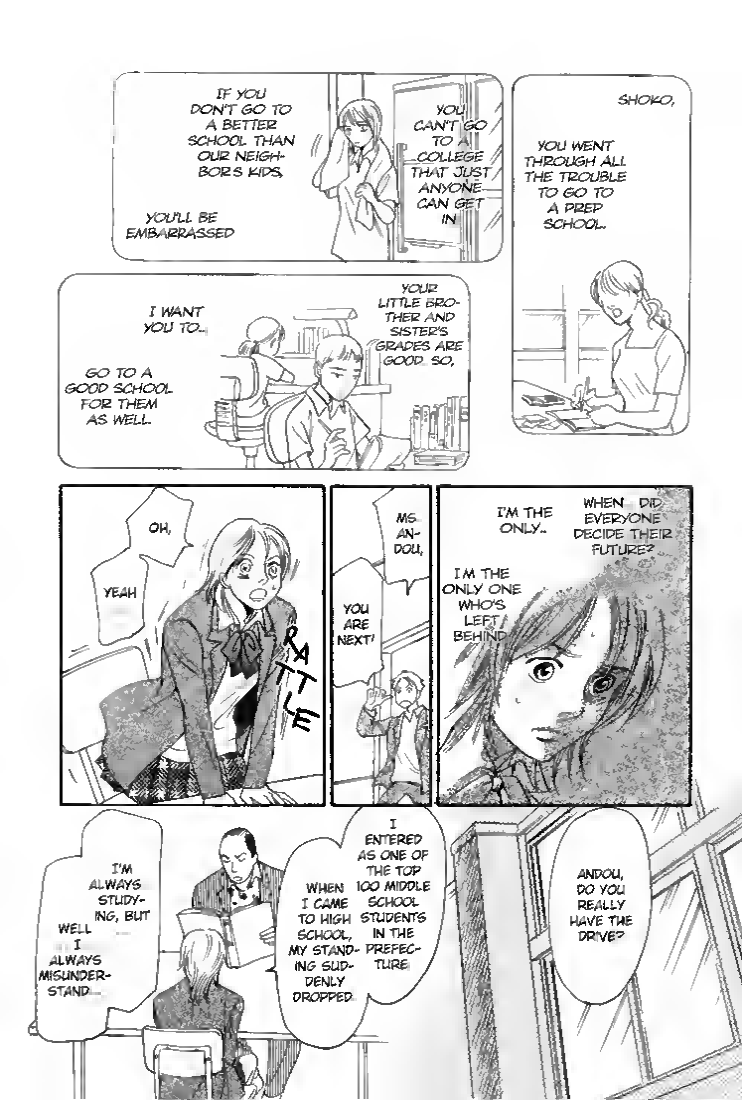
AKI-RA!
Appear
YOU HAVE A GUIDANCE INTERVIEW AT SCHOOL TODAY, RIGHT?
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD YOUR MAMA ANYTHING... COLLEGE? A JOB?
OH, GOOD MORNING!
DID THEY HEAR ME?
AH...
COLLEGE? A JOB? THERE'S OUR FAMILY BUSINESS, RIGHT?
Oh, my!
WELL, IF WE DON'T TRY ASKING AKIRA ABOUT IT...
The boy will continue with the sword-smithing, correct?
He'll surely make a good sword-smith.
Being in the house from morning 'till night...
If you were to play with us, it would be fine, right?
I DON'T KNOW... WHAT I SHOULD GO FOR
NOT... YET

T/L NOTE: TORAGIKUMARU, WORD FOR WORD MEANS "TIGER CHRYSANTHEMUM" AND "MARU" IS A SUFFIX FOR NAMES

I'M HEADING OUT!
WHEN I WAS AT HIS AGE, I STUDIED UNDER ANOTHER SWORD-SMITH.
WE HAVE TO MAKE HIM EXPERIENCE IT SOON
I WONDER IF HE IS THINKING ABOUT DOING THIS JOB?
IF AKIRA... TOUCHES A SWORD, HE CAN SEE THE TRUE CHARACTER OF THE SWORD
SIGH... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
MY HOUSE HAS BEEN A SWORD-SMITHERY SINCE THE KAMAKURA* ERA
T/L NOTE
KAMAKURA ERA: 1185-1333
MY GRANDPA, THE NATIONAL LIVING TREASURE, AND MY FATHER WORK TOGETHER IN HARMONY TO FORGE FAMOUS BLADES...
This generation is in reverse- the job requests are decreasing!
THERE'S NOTHING MORE DIFFICULT THAN SWORD-SMITHING...
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO CONTINUE IT!

WHAT A NICE SCENT.
AHH... IT'S FROM THIS MANSION'S ROSES.
IT'S A PURE, JAPANESE-STYLED HOUSE, BUT
SINCE IT HAS VERY FOREIGN-LOOKING FLOWERS,
I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS A BIT MYSTERIOUS.
THERE'S A BOY. ELEMENTARY? NO, A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT, I THINK?
HE'S STARING.
OOPS, I'VE GOT TO HURRY
WE'LL GO IN ORDER OF ATTENDANCE FOR THE CAREER GUIDANCE MEETING.

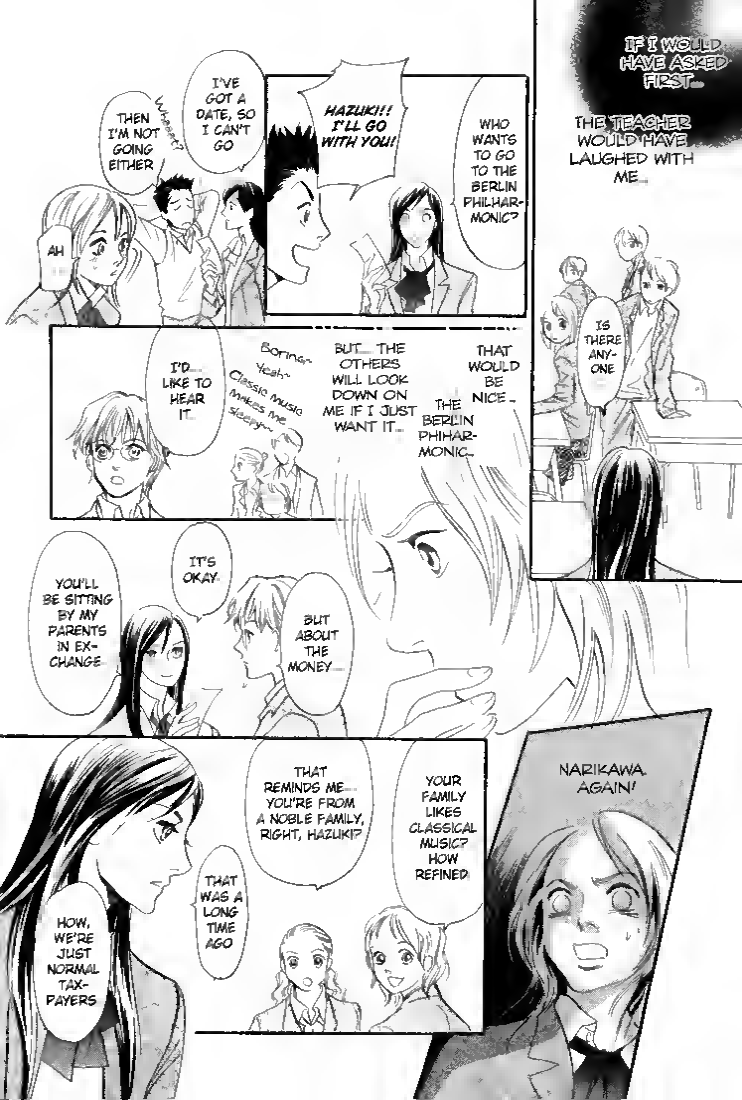
I'M AIMING FOR A CAREER AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SO...
I'M GOING FOR T COLLEGE'S LAW SCHOOL
W COLLEGE'S ENGLISH LITERATURE
WHERE ARE YOU APPLYING?
YES?
AIDA
COME ONE AT A TIME TO THE PREP ROOM EVERYONE ELSE STUDY ON YOUR OWN!
YEAH, BUT, WELL, EVEN IF I STUDY AT A JAPANESE COLLEGE I WON'T BECOME A CELEBRITY
KYOZAKI, YOU'RE GOING TO SPECIALIZE IN MATHEMATICS, RIGHT?
I'M ALREADY A 2ND YEAR, BUT...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...
WHAT... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HOW ABOUT ENGLISH?
THE TEST WON'T BE JUST FORMULAS
SO? I KNOW! I'LL ASK MY DAD TO BORROW SOME MONEY AND APPLY TO M.I.T.
SCHOOL CLUBS. A MAJOR. I HAVE NO IDEA ON WHAT TO CHOOSE.
CHOOSING A COLLEGE...
MY GRADES AREN'T THAT GOOD.


IF YOU DON'T GO TO A BETTER SCHOOL THAN OUR NEIGHBOR'S KIDS,
YOU'LL BE EMBARRASSED
YOU CAN'T GO TO A COLLEGE THAT JUST ANYONE CAN GET IN
SHOKO,
YOU WENT THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE TO GO TO A PREP SCHOOL.
I WANT YOU TO...
GO TO A GOOD SCHOOL FOR THEM AS WELL.
YOUR LITTLE BROTHER AND SISTER'S GRADES ARE GOOD. SO,
OH,
YEAH
RATE
MS. ANDOU,
YOU ARE NEXT!
I'M THE ONLY...
WHEN DID EVERYONE DECIDE THEIR FUTURE?
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S LEFT BEHIND
I'M ALWAYS STUDYING, BUT WELL I ALWAYS MISUNDERSTAND...
WHEN I CAME TO HIGH SCHOOL, MY STANDING SUDDENLY DROPPED.
I ENTERED AS ONE OF THE TOP 100 MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE PREFECTURE.
ANDOU, DO YOU REALLY HAVE THE DRIVE?

YOU HAVE NO GOAL AND SO YOUR RESULTS ARE DROPPING
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THIS KEEPS UP?
I TOLD YOU OVER THREE MONTHS AGO TO DECIDE BY TODAY!
WELL...
I'LL SOON DECIDE
But...
WELL? WHAT SCHOOL ARE YOU HOPING FOR?
DON'T MAKE ANY EXCUSES
TH THUMP
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET INTO ANY SCHOOL!
OH NARI-KAWA, WHAT'S WRONG?
LIM...
IS IT OKAY TO COME IN?
MR MASU-DA...
ASKED ME TO BRING YOU THIS NEW TEST GUIDE
OH!

HUH?
UH... ME?
NARI-KAWA, HAVE YOU DECIDED ON A SCHOOL?
BY THE WAY,
WELL... EXCUSE ME
HUH?
HAD YOU ALREADY DECIDED ON A JOB WHEN YOU WERE OUR AGE?
YOU HAVEN'T PICKED EITHER?!
But
I... CAN'T DECIDE YET
THIS SUCKS. THE TEACHER IS GOING TO BE EVEN MORE UPSET...
NARIKAWA HASN'T DECIDED EITHER.
IT'S A LONG STORY...
CLENCH
WELL, WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEA-CHER?
WHAT? I NEVER HEARD OF THAT
NO I...
WENT INTO A TRADE BUSINESS FOR A BIT

WHY? WHY?!
WHY ISN'T THE TEACHER MAD AT NARIKAWA?
NARIKAWA IS THE SAME AS ME... WE HAVEN'T DECIDED ON A SCHOOL -
BUT WHY IS HE ONLY MAD AT ME?
GET MAD AT NARIKAWA, TOO!
WELL, DON'T WORRY,
IF ALL ELSE FAILS, YOU CAN CONTINUE YOUR FAMILY'S BUSINESS, RIGHT?
HA! HA! HA!
THAT'S THE BIGGEST PROBLEM.
WHAT SHOULD I DO.. TO DECIDE?
I WAS THE ONE WANTING TO ASK THE TEACHER QUESTIONS.
HA! HA! HA!
SORRY, SORRY
WELL THEN, JUST DECIDE BY SUMMER BREAK.
WELL, OKAY
IT'S UNFAIR... YOU'RE SNEAKY, NARIKAWA!


IF I WOULD HAVE ASKED FIRST...
THE TEACHER WOULD HAVE LAUGHED WITH ME...
IS THERE ANY-ONE
WHO WANTS TO GO TO THE BERLIN PHILHAR-MONIC?
HAZUKI!! I'LL GO WITH YOU!
I'VE GOT A DATE, SO I CAN'T GO
THEN I'M NOT GOING EITHER
AH
THAT WOULD BE NICE...
THE BERLIN PHIHAR-MONIC...
BUT... THE OTHERS WILL LOOK DOWN ON ME IF I JUST WANT IT...
Boring... Yeah... Classic music makes me sleepy...
I'D... LIKE TO HEAR IT...
BUT ABOUT THE MONEY...
IT'S OKAY
YOU'LL BE SITTING BY MY PARENTS IN EX-CHANGE
YOUR FAMILY LIKES CLASSICAL MUSIC? HOW REFINED
THAT REMINDS ME... YOU'RE FROM A NOBLE FAMILY, RIGHT, HAZUKI?
NARIKAWA AGAIN!
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
HOW, WE'RE JUST NORMAL TAX-PAYERS

UH... UM... ME, TOO
MY FAMILY, TOO
NARIKAWA'S FAMILY IS MUCH MORE...
WOAH!!
THESE TICKETS ARE 200 BUCKS!
I would have to take out a 12 month loan to afford this!
HYAH!
Hazuki is amazing!
MY FAMILY LINEAGE IS ALSO FROM THE IMPERIAL COURT.
SINCE THE HEIAN ERA... THEY SERVED AN IMPORTANT OFFICIAL POSITION
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT OFFICIAL POSITION WAS, RIGHT?
ANDOU IS ALWAYS TELLING US ABOUT IT
IT'S TRUE!
YOU KNOW ABOUT... THE HUGE MANSION FOR THE HEAD FAMILY RIGHT NEAR THE SCHOOL?!
"HEAD FAMILY"
SO YOU'RE A BRANCH FAMILY? SO YOU DON'T HAVE A DIRECT CONNECTION WITH THEM?
SO WHY ARE YOU BRAGGING?
KYOZAKI!

I'M NOT BRAGGING!
ALSO... I'M PROBABLY GOING TO SUCCEED THE HEAD FAMILY!
SHOCK...
I KNEW IT, YOU CAN'T BE PROUD TO BE A BRANCH FAMILY!
YOU'RE WRONG!
I HAVE TO LEAVE OR I'LL MISS THE BUS!
HMM?
KYOZAKI...?
WHEN IT COMES TO PISSING PEOPLE OFF, YOU'RE A GENIUS
SLIDE
MAJOR...
CONCERT TICKET...
SCHOOL...
NARIKAWA... AKIRA!

I ENTERED THE HEAD FAMILY'S HOUSE FOR A FUNERAL.
ONCE, A LONG TIME AGO...
AN ELEGANT GRANDMOTHER WAS THERE.. SINCE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE FUNERAL FOR HER SON AND HIS WIFE.
A LOT OF AMAZING GUESTS CAME.
IF THAT PERSON IS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY..
SHE HAS TO BE PRETTY OLD, SO..

I WONDER... WHO WILL SUCCEED HER...
Rustle
AH THE SMELL OF ROSES.
THAT'S THE KID FROM THIS MORNING.
HE'S LOOKING OVER HERE AGAIN
I WONDER IF HE WANT'S SOMETHING.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Sigh
HUMANITIES OR SCIENCES?
I still haven't come to a decision

HEY, IN A JAPANESE GARDEN LIKE THIS,
IS IT STRANGE TO HAVE ROSES AND HERBS?
AH
THIS KID...
...ISN'T HUMAN?
A KATANA
I THINK IT'S FINE, BUT...

VSSSH
FOUND IT.

SPRL SLAM

HEY! WHO ARE YOU?! YOU CAN'T JUST BARGE... HEY!
HUH?
DRIP
THUD THUD
HUH?
Fssshh
Fssshh
Rattle
THUD THUD

HUH?
HEY BOY,
HOW ABOUT SOME TEA?
HARU, THIS GUY'S A THIEF!
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE
THIS BOY IS—
WAAH!
WHERE AM I?
Muddy Earth!
NO... I MEAN, I'M SORRY— HUH?
OH, MY
I was carrying things.
Haru he's dangerous! He's holding that sword!
NOW, NOW, YOU WALKED THROUGH THE GARDEN.
THE HALL IS FLOODED.
HERE, I'LL WIPE THE MUD OFF YOUR FEET!
Throw
WAH!
THUD

YAWN!
I REALLY SLEPT,
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TEN YEARS!
OH... MADAM!! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!
WHAT A NICE FRAGRANCE
THE ROSES HAVE BLOOMED NICELY
MY, MY. THE GATE WAS LEFT OPEN
AH
WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING IN THIS MANSION?
THIS KATANA'S SPIRIT...
PANIC
PANIC
MADAM, IT SEEMS YOU CAN WALK AGAIN
Well
I JUST BECAME LIVELY.
Oh!
A CUTE BOY HAS COME, HASN'T HE?
HARU, PLEASE SET OUT SOME SNACKS
HARU, IT'S GOING TO GET EXCITING FROM NOW ON
PLEASE PULL ME OUT YOU'RE INTERESTED, RIGHT?
B—BUT—

I CAN'T. IT'S RUDE... TO THE PEOPLE IN THIS HOUSE.
HMP
NO GUTS
BOY
WON'T YOU... DRAW THAT KATANA?
YOU PASSED THROUGH THE GATE, RIGHT?
YOU PROBABLY WON'T BELIEVE ME, BUT...
I WAS WALKING ON THE ROAD IN THE FRONT THEN, WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS HERE
WHEN DID I GRAB THIS TACHI*...
I'M SORRY, I'LL BE GOING HOME NOW.
YOU DIDN'T SAY KATANA, YOU SAID "TACHI".
IT'S SUPERB.
HEIAN OR KAMA-KURA?
MY FAMILY MEMBERS ARE SWORD-SMITHS
It's hung from the tip with the blade down.
WHAT?

* A SWORD LONGER THAN A KATANA, USUALLY WORN WITH THE BLADE FACING DOWN AND USED MAINLY BY CAVALRY

I MUST HAVE IT!
HEY
DON'T YOU THINK ANDOU IS A LITTLE WEIRD TODAY?
HEH HEH
MUFUFUFU
SHOKO! IF WE COULD SAY THAT YOU ARE GOING TO THE BEST COLLEGE OUT OF ALL THE RELATIVES,
KU KU
WE COULD PROBABLY GET THAT SWORD!
THE GATE WAS OPENED..
THE GATE OF SAKIMI..
THAT DESIRED POWER..
AND SO,
I REALIZED THAT THIS SWORD
HAS A MYSTERIOUS POWER.
IS THAT SO?
BOY, COME HERE TOMORROW AT THIS TIME.
MAKE SURE OF IT.

TODAY
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THESE PEOPLE COMING TO VISIT THE HEAD FAMILY
AKIRA,
There's a lot of people
WHEN SCHOOL IS OVER, COME TO THE SAKIMI HOUSE RIGHT AWAY
SHOKO, OVER HERE!
PLEASE DRAW THE SWORD
SET ME FREE FROM THIS BATTLE SMEARED IN GREED
WHAT? YOU'VE GOT EYES ON THE PROPERTY!
IT'S NOT APPROPRIATE FOR CRUDE PEOPLE TO BEAR THE SAKIMI NAME!
GRANDMOTHER, PLEASE, THE SWORD ...
ME?

ME! ME!
RECOGNIZE ME! GIVE ME THE POWER!
SHOULD BE ME. I HAVE THE CLOSEST BLOOD LINE.
THE ONE TO CONTINUE THE SAKIMI LINEAGE
THE HOUSE GATE BEING OPEN MEANS THAT THE INHERITOR IS GOING TO CHANGE, RIGHT?
PLEASE CHOOSE SOON!
IT'S ABOUT ACCOMPLISHMENTS! SHOKO IS GOING TO THE BEST SCHOOL IN THE PREFECTURE
WAIT, IT'S NOT ABOUT THE SAKIMI FAMILY REGISTER.
MAGANIMOUSNESS THAT CANNOT BE SWAYED AWAY BY GREED
A WISE PERSON, UNAFRAID OF DIFFICULTIES
A FLEXIBLE WAY OF THINKING,
IT'S AS YOU SAY
MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE AMOUNT OF SAKIMI BLOOD,
IT IS DECIDED ON THE CHARACTER BEFITTING OF HIS OFFICIAL POSITION
HURRY!
WAH!

WHO ARE YOU?
NARI-KAWA?!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
"WHY"?
GOOD QUES-TION
AKIRA,
QUICKLY, DRAW THE SWORD BEHIND YOU.
I... I CAN'T IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
YOU CAN'T?
I HAVE ALREADY DECIDED ON YOU
TO PICK THE SAKIMI SUCCES-SOR, THE DRAGON OF THE TIERED SWORD
WILL CHOOSE A JEWEL

NARI...
KAWA...
DON'T... TAKE... ANYMORE FROM ME...
I'VE BEEN SO TROUBLED, YET...
I'VE ENDURED BEING CRITICIZED AND BEING HATED, AND YET...
!
SHU
SHO— KO— WHAT'S WRONG?
SWORD...
THAT SWORD IS PROOF OF HONOR AND RANK...
I WON'T GIVE IT TO ANYONE!!
THE TIERED SWORD ALONE...
IS MINE!

TO CLEANSE A JEWEL ...
CLOUDED IN MALI-CIOUS-NESS...
GET AWAY FROM THAT SWORD!
IT'S MINE ...
Huff Huff
UH.. UH.

AH..
SAY IT.
IS IT PAIN-FUL?
I... I... I CAN'T... DECIDE ON A SCHOOL...
MY RE-SULTS DROPPED I'M NO GOOD... AS A PERSON
NA... NARIKAWA IS GOOD
SHOKO !!
YOUR CHILD?
IT'S FINE FOR NARIKAWA ... TO SO EASILY SAY...
"I CAN'T" OR "TEACH ME"
IF I WERE TO SAY SOME-THING LIKE THAT... MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY...
...WILL HATE ME!!

SFX SLAM!
SFX *KATSU*
SHOKO
AH...

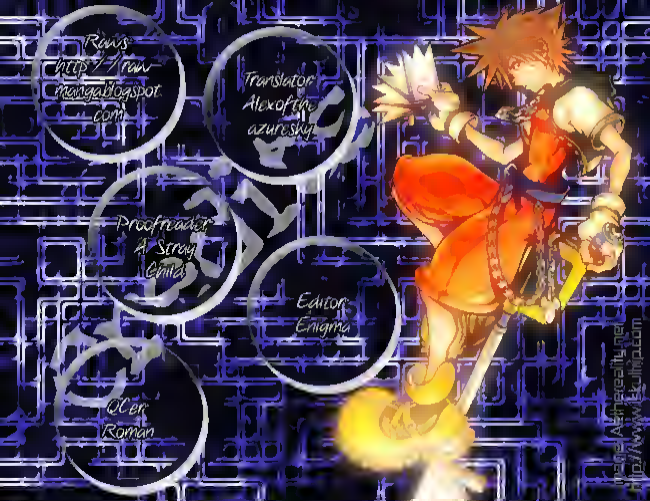
TO NOT BE ABLE TO SEE WHAT'S AHEAD OF YOU IS PAINFUL?
IS IT REALLY SO VEXING FOR OTHERS TO MOVE ON AHEAD?
HOWEVER, NOW... IF YOU GROW ACCUSTOMED TO HATING NARIKAWA,
YOU'LL LOSE SIGHT OF YOURSELF IN THIS LIFE
CLEANSE THE JEWEL OF YOUR YOUNG HEART
THE TIERED SWORD OF THE SAKIMI CLAN...
WILL BE KEPT BY NARIKAWA AKIRA
RATTLE
Fall

YOU UNDERSTAND EVERYONE...
I WILL REPORT THIS TO THE APPROPRIATE PLACES
YOU HIJACKED ME?!
WELL, YOU WERE SLOW!
Why am I holding a sword? Why did everyone fall over?
MY... SENSES HAVE RETURNED, BUT...
DON'T WORRY. I TOOK CARE OF IT.

NO...
YOU WERE BOUND TO BY YOUR PARENT'S HONOR
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARSH
SHOKO... YOU MUST BE... SO ASHAMED
GRANDMA...
SHOKO,
AREN'T YOU GLAD?

HUH? FLOWER ARRANGING?
YOU'RE LEARNING IT AT THIS HOUSE?
YOU COULD SAY LEARNING...
AKIRA!
RUSH
THE MADAM IS WAITING. COME ON, HURRY!
THAT'S WHY... I ASKED YOU TO COME WITH ME!
IT SOUNDS FUN, LET'S GO, HAZUKI!
NO WAY.
IT'S DONE AT MY HOUSE, TOO
TEA AND PIANOS ARE SO BORING...
NARI-KAWA!
I... DECIDED!!
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT!
ANDOU
THAT'S RIGHT, SHE SAID THAT THIS HOUSE BELONGED TO A RELATIVE

AH... IT SEEMS HE HAS A MATHE-MATICAL INTEREST.
KYOZAKI, ARE YOU GOING TO COME IN, TOO?
HAZUKI, YOU AREN'T COMING?
NARI-KAWA IS A TEACHER OF LIFE
I REVERE HIM
What are you saying? I don't really remem-ber any-thing
WAIT!
I'M COMING, TOO!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【第5話】検の刀

I WOKE UP AT 5 A.M. DURING MY SUMMER VACATION JUST TO RIDE ON THE NUMBER 3 TRANSFER BUS. AFTER 10 HOURS, I'M DEEP IN THE F PREFECTURE...
AKIRA! GO TO THIS KATANA SEMINAR.
YOU'RE 16 ALREADY, RIGHT?
EH,??
I'VE TAKEN CARE OF CONTACTING THEM. YOU'LL LEAVE TOMORROW.
Next is Single Pine
I'VE ARRIVED.
Special course from hell...
THIS MEMO IS WRONG.
YOUR SEMINAR ISN'T A SINGLE PINE, IT'S AT SWORD MOUND.
WHAT ?!

THIS BOY LOOKS HUMAN, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY A SPIRIT THAT ONLY I CAN SEE
.. ARE YOU HERE?
HEY, WHY.
HEY, BUDDY, IS THERE A SNAKE ON HERE?
Sorry
I'M CONCERNED ABOUT HOW AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE IS DOING
An old friend? A katana?
BECAUSE OF STRANGE EVENTS, I BECOME ITS OWNER
WE WAS CALLED THE "TIERED KATANA" AND SERVED AS A DEVICE TO CHOOSE THE NEXT HEIR FOR ITS MASTER WHO SERVED AN IMPORTANT POSITION IN THE HEIAN IMPERIAL COURT
YOUR BODY IS BACK AT THE MANSION, SO—
YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO BE SO FAR AWAY—!

HEY BUDDY, DID A TANUKI* GET ON, TOO?
THE SWORD'S GUARD!!
HMM ?
CHEST POCKET
*A Tanuki is a raccoon dog
I SAID IT WAS
IF YOU WALK A LITTLE, YOU'LL FIND IT.
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE PLACE?
Final Stop.
Sword Mound
SEE, THERE IT IS.

THE SOUND OF HAMMERS
A LOT OF THEM.
EVERY-ONE, PLEASE TAKE A BREAK IF YOU LIKE.
I'M WELL AWARE OF YOUR SKILL
JIROU, HITOSHI, YOU BOTH HAVE DONE A MAGNIFI-CENT JOB
MAS-TER!
WE CAN WORK AS OFFICIAL SWORD-SMITHS, CAN'T WE?!

YEAH
HOW-EVER, BEFORE THAT,
YES
... THERE'S A "TEST" AKANE.
YOU TWO...
THIS WAY
FOR THOSE WHO TAKE IT, THE TEST IS THE PROOF OF THEIR COMING OF AGE
WE SHOULD CONCEN-TRATE, TOO
MASTER, THIS TEST...
... IS TO "PICK ONE" ON THIS KATANA?
... WILL DECIDE YOUR PRESTIGE AS A SWORD-SMITH.
ANSWER-ING THAT...

AH!
MASTER!! THOSE TWO...
DID THEY FULFILL THE TEST?
EXCUSE ME...
I'M NARIKAWA AKIRA I'LL BE STARTING TODAY
AH ARRIVED AT LAST
Every one's in Japanese clothing.
FATHER TOLD ME TO COME HERE AND LEARN THE BASICS
NARIKAWA-?
A SWORDSMITH FROM A DISTANT LAND?
A NEW PERSON
UH... MASTER, ABOUT THOSE TWO?
OH, BECAUSE THEY PASSED WITH NO PROBLEMS, THEY'RE HEADED TOWARDS THE CASTLE

* – Soshu was an old province in Japan in the area that is now known as Kanagawa. It was also called Sagami.
** – Bizen was an old province in Japan in the area that is now known as Okayama.
*** – Jewel Steel or Tamahagane is a special steel used only for making samurai swords.
**** – The term sharpen can also mean hone, wash and cleanse.

WHAT?!
WELL, ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU CAN DO?
WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?
HEY, WHAT'S YOUR SPECIALTY?
SOSHU* METHOD OR BIZEN** METHOD?
CAN YOU MAKE A "JEWEL STEEL"*** ON YOUR OWN?
NO,
I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE METHODS
THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING FOR HELP STARTING WITH THE BASICS
UMM...
I CAN SHARPEN**** A BIT
EVERYONE PLEASE DON'T BULLY HIM.
WELL, I'LL GO LOOK FOR A KATANA WITH A DAMAGED BLADE
WOW IN A REMOTE PLACE LIKE THIS...
THE ONE IN THE KIMONO I WONDER IF SHE'S MY AGE?
!

THE TIERED KATANA IS...
WHAT'S THIS
IT'S RESONATING WITH ANOTHER KATANA!
HEY, BOY?

KYA-AAA!
AGH!
GRAND-FATHER, THE TESTING KATANA...
AKANE?
TEST-ING... KATA-NA?
WHY ARE YOU COMING?
HUH I'M WOR-RIED ABOUT THE KA-TANA AND AKANE
JUST STAY THERE
KASA-NE*
WAS THAT YOUR DOING?
I TOLD YOU, MY FRIEND IS HERE
*AKIRA CALLS THE SWORD BY THE FIRST PART OF THE SWORD'S TITLE. KARANEGATANA

THE TESTING KATANA SUDDENLY FELL OFF THE STAND
WHAT HAP-PENED?
WHOA! AKIRA CAN GET RID OF SOME SERIOUS DAMAGE
HE'S GOOD
WITH JUST AN UCHIGU-MORIDO*
HE'S ALREADY BRIGH-TENED THE SWORD SO MUCH
LOOK HOW MUCH IT GATHERS THE SUN-LIGHT
AKIRA-DONO, YOU MAY BE JUST A BABY WHEN IT COMES TO FORGING, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO SHARPENING, YOU'RE A SAGE
*A style of Whetstone used before the finishing touches.

OR MASTER...
IS SEARCHING FOR SUPERB SWORDSMITHS,
BUT A GOOD SHARPENER MAY PLEASE HIM, TOO
AKIRA
YOU WILL TAKE THE TEST TOMORROW, TOO
Wow I've never seen a whetstone of this quality
AKIRA
It's like they stick to the Katana... could these be those hard to find Nagurado?
Stones!
Stones!
EH ?
IS HE NOT LISTENING?
THAT'S FINE. WE'LL TALK TOMORROW
The feel of these great stones I want to sharpen using it
Stones!
This is a Joukenbido?
I love stones

SURE IS QUIET.
AKIRA! YOU HAVE GUEST.
MAKES THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE CITY SEEM FAKE
It's an honor to meet you.
I resonated with Kasane-dono earlier.
I am a Katana spirit
!
SO YOU'RE KASANE'S ACQUAINTANCE
GOO-GOOD EVENING

Please save us somehow.
Akira-dono
UGH!
Please look.
SAVE ..?
YOU ..?
This chain binds my soul to hell.
It's always gripping my body
Only you can release me

KASA-NE!
I cannot utter the reason for my accursed body.
BU-BUT
YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT AND DE-CIDE
I ALSO CAN'T ANSWER
If you make a mistake on your path, calamity will also..
HOW?
YOU'LL MAKE YOUR DECISION TOMORROW
Please some-how save
this grotes-que body

JIROU HITOSHI...
I'VE DONE SOMETHING INEXCUSABLE
FORGIVE ME
WHY DOES SOMETHING THIS TERRIBLE
HAVE TO KEEP HAPPENING?
IT'S ALL MY FAULT
GRANDFATHER...
IT A CELEBRATION, THE KATANA I FORGED...
CUT THE YOUNG MASTER'S BODY IN TWO.
FOR SOME REASON...
YOUNG MASTER!
YOUNG MASTER!
WHY DID THIS
LORD!
BECAUSE THE CHARACTER OF THE SWORDSMITH WAS SHADY,
A CALAMITY LIKE THIS TOOK PLACE

IF IT ENDS THE SUFFERING OF MY CHILD, I'LL DO ANY-THING!
DIVINER, WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THAT?
PLEASE EMPLOY AN AUSPICIOUS PERSON
GATHER STRONG EMPLOYEES FROM MANY PROVINES
THE BLADE WILL COME FROM A SWORD THAT HAS KILLED 100 PEOPLE IN BATTLE
MAKE A KATANA WITH ONE SWING I WILL PUT A PRAYER TO IT.
THE RIDGE WILL COME FROM A PURI-FIED, SACRED SWORD FROM A DEFED SHRINE
MAKE EACH EMPLOYEE CHOOSE EITHER THE BLADE OR THE RIDGE
AND MELD THE TWO TOGETHER TO MAKE ONE SWORD
SHAVE HALF OF THE BODY OF EACH KATANA
I...
FATHER... "FICK ONE"?

FATHER, I...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SHI-ROU, I'M GOING FIRST
GO THROUGH THE DOOR TO THE LEFT
VERY WELL
IT...
IT SEEMS TO HAVE SURVIVED MANY BATTLES
SO I THINK THIS BLADE SURPASSES THE OTHER
I THINK THE WAY THE RIDGE SPARKLES SO PURELY
IS BETTER
THEN, THE DOOR TO THE RIGHT
BROTHER— TOOK THE LEFT DOOR AND I TOOK THE RIGHT
WHAT THIS IS A DARK ROOM
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A BLADE THAT CUT 100 PEOPLE?!
WE DON'T NEED A BLOOD-THIRSTY SWORD-SMITH!
BROTHER! WHAT HAPPENED?!

BRO-THER!
MY BRO-THER... CHOSE THE BLADE...
AND WAS KILLED...?
SO, I...
DID I MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE...?
BRO-THER!
TIE THE CRIMINAL UP!
PEOPLE WHO MAKE KATANAS THAT CAN KILL AND CHOOSE THE RIDGE OF THE SACRED SWORD...
FA-THER!
FA-THER!
DRAG HIM BEHIND A HORSE UNTIL YOU REACH THE JAIL!
AND BOAST, "I AM HOLY," ARE ABSURD!

FA-
THER
FOR-
GIVE
ME
ICHI-
ROUTA
SHIROU
FA-
THER
IF YOU
TRUST WHAT
I SAY, EVERY-
THING WILL
GO WELL
DIVINER I
MADE THE SONS
OF THAT HATED
SWORDSMITH
TAKE THE TEST
FIRST
IS THAT
OKAY?
HAVE
WALKED
THROUGH
THOSE
DOORS
NOT
ONLY MY
CHIL-
DREN
NOW,
GATHER
THE EM-
PLOYEES
THE SWORD
AND I ARE
TRULY
MISERABLE
BUT
ALSO
DOZENS OF
OTHER
PEOPLE

AKIRA-DONO.
AKA-NE.
I... PROMISED THE KATANA ....
I SAID I WOULD SAVE IT SOME-HOW.
THE KATANA ...?!
WAIT!
PLEASE ESC PE, RIGHT AWAY.
DON'T SK MY QUES-TIONS.
WAIT!
LE VE THIS SINISTER PLACE!

AKIRA
THIS WAY.
I'LL BE FINE, SO
PLEASE DON'T CRY
THIS IS AN HONOR FROM MY MASTER.
THIS IS AN EXPRESSION OF A SWORDSMITH'S STRENGTH.
NOW, TAKE A GOOD LOOK
PLEASE, *PICK ONE*

IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S SUFFERING FOR SOME REASON
EH!
THIS IS THAT STRANGE LOOKING KATANA FROM YESTERDAY
HE MUST NOT PICK EITHER.
HE NOTICED.
ON THE OUTSIDE THE SCABBARD AND GRIP SEEM RIGHT. BUT
THE BLADE AND THE RIDGE OF THIS KATANA ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
?
?
IF HE PICKS THE RIDGE, HE'LL BE A CRIMINAL DECEIVED BY HIS OWN VIRTUE.
IF HE PICKS THE BLADE, HE'LL BE KILLED AS A BLOODTHIRSTY SWORDSMITH.

UGH!
AKI-
RA
I'LL
LEAVE
THAT
TO YOU

It can't be!
You're not supposed to come here!
Ka-Kasane?!
IF WAS YOU, WASN'T IT? FAKE DIVINER GENSHIKAI!
WELL, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU MADE A BARRIER WITH YOUR FILTHY, DARK MAGIC
I BROUGHT YOU THE THING THAT YOU HATED THE MOST.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?
Don't interfere!
IT'S SOMETHING THAT CAN'T SET FOOT INTO GEDOU'S* REALM THAT IS ROTTEN TO THE CORE.

*Gedou me ‖ the practices perceived as heretical by authorism

I CAN'T CHOOSE EITHER
PRECISELY
"PICK ONE".
A KATANA THAT DRANK BLOOD AND A PURE KATANA
THIS KATANA IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
IT'S SOMETHING FORCED TOGETHER AGAINST IT'S WILL
WHO THOUGHT OF THIS CRUEL IDEA?!
A KATANA THAT YOU FORCE TOGETHER
IS A SUFFERING KATANA
I'M GLAD. IF YOU CHOSE EITHER, YOU WOULD HAVE LOST YOUR LIFE.
NOW, LET'S LEAVE HERE I'LL GUIDE YOU TO THE CASTLE
OH
AKIRA-DONO!
THAT'S RIGHT. THE ANSWER IS TO NOT CHOOSE!

NO.
THIS ISN'T THE ANSWER.
Akira-dono.
We're still suffering.
WHAT CAN I DO TO SAVE THIS KATANA?
Kasane!
Stay back!
Don't enter my temple!
THIS IS A TEMPLE? IT'S TINY

Then, I'll bind you with this filthy chain, just like the Testing Katana!
I can because I'm the master!!
I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU.
I LIKE TO BE CLEAN.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THIS BLADE WAS SHARPENED?
WHEN ...? WELL...
WE COULDN'T REALLY TOUCH THE KATANA BECAUSE OF ITS DREADFULNESS...
THE WHOLE BODY IS WRAPPED IN A BLACK SHADOW
HOW SAD.
THE BLADE AND THE RIDGE
HOW PITIFUL
The chain
Came off
AKIRA-DONO, THE KATANA IS BECOMING CLEARER
GENSHI-KAI!!

AKIRA'S SHARPENING.
HAS CLEARED AWAY THE MUDDINESS OF THE CURSE
OH!
MASTER, AKANE...
IS IT OKAY IF I SET THIS KATANA FREE?
IT'S FINE.
LET'S GO OUTSIDE TOGETHER
PLEASE WATCH

10
Akira-dono.
Thank you.
Thank you.
HMM
バラバラ…

HUH?
WHERE IS THE HOUSE?
MASTER? AKANE?
I'M ITCHY ALL OVER!
AND . HUNGRY!
LEECHES!
Kissl Kissl
YOUR TRAINING PLACE IS OVER THERE.
DON'T BE MAD! SEE, WE'RE IN TOWN NOW
YOU GOT LOST?!
No apology!
SO THIS IS THE REASON KOUJUN* IS WORRIED!
MY SUMMER VACATION WENT BY ROUGHLY
Put more strength into your cuts!
Ahhh!
Testing Katana || END
*Koujun is Akira's dad.

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